
MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL REFERENCE PAMPHLET

**A Chronology Of The
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

1965-1969



VOLUME IV

**HISTORICAL DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

1971

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A CHRONOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS, 1965-1969

VOLUME IV

BY

GABRIELLE M. NEUFELD



Historical Division
Headquarters, United States Marine Corps
Washington, D. C. 20380

1971

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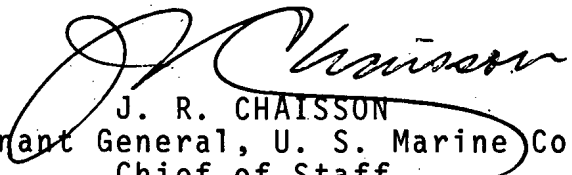


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

Preface

This is the fourth volume of a chronology of Marine Corps activities which cover the history of the U. S. Marines. It is derived from unclassified official records and suitable published contemporary works.

This chronology is published for the information of all interested in Marine Corps activities during the period 1965-1969 and is dedicated to those Marines who participated in the events listed.


J. R. CHAISSON
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

Reviewed and approved: 2 September 1971

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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INTRODUCTION

This chronology was produced as a ready reference to Marine Corps activities during 1965-1969 when the United States was deeply involved in the war in Vietnam. Throughout this chronology, geographic locations are used to introduce each entry to enable the reader to locate the event with greater ease. The heading "USMC" is used when an event affected the Marine Corps in its entirety.

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES

MARINE CORPS, 1965-1969

VOLUME IV

By

GABRIELLE M. NEUFELD

The United States Marine Corps, 1965-1969

1965

- 7 Jan OKINAWA---The personnel of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines sailed from San Diego, California as a transplacement battalion for the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, v. 23, no. 1, 8 Jan 1965, p. 2.)
- 9-12 Jan VIETNAM---Marine helicopters carrying South Vietnamese forces to the northern coastal section were fired upon by insurgent small arms fire. Marine gunners in the helicopters returned the fire. There was no damage to the aircraft. (Globe, v. 21, no. 3, 21 Jan 1965, p. 1.)
- 19 Jan CONUS---Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 3/8 departed Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for a three month deployment to the Caribbean area. The battalion replaced BLT 3/2 which had been deployed there since September 1964. (Globe, v. 21, no. 3, 21 Jan 1965, p. 1.)
- 25 Jan USMC---The planned strength of the Marine Corps for 30 June 1966 was to be 193,000. The present strength was 188,495. (FOF, (1965), p. 29C.)
- 1 Feb- CONUS---Operation SNOWFEX-65 was held at Camp Drum, New York. This was the largest
1 Mar Marine Corps East Coast cold weather training exercise since the 1940s. Taking part in this month-long exercise were the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Marine Transport/Refueler Squadron (VMGR) 252, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 265. (Leatherneck, v. XLIX, no. 5, May 1965, p. 61.)
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---Following several Viet Cong attacks on U. S. forces and installations, President Johnson ordered the deployment of the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion to the Da Nang area. The battalion was equipped with Hawk surface-to-air missiles. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 9 Feb 1965, p. 1; Early Bird, N.Y. Journal American, 9 Feb 1965, p. 10.)
- 12 Feb- CONUS---The largest war game to be conducted since World War II, Operation SILVER LANCE,
9 Mar took place at Camp Pendleton, California. About 25,000 Marines from Hawaii and the West Coast and 20,000 sailors participated in the operation. The exercise included an amphibious landing by a force of 20,000 Marines. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 4, Apr 1965, p. 5.)
- 14 Feb VIETNAM---A force of two battalions was stationed on board ships off the coast of South Vietnam ready to intervene if the Viet Cong began new attacks on American installations. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 15 Feb 1965, p. 3.)
- 15-16 Feb VIETNAM---American involvement in Vietnam deepened as 88 Viet Cong guerrillas were killed in scattered incidents by Marine and Army helicopter gunners. The Viet Cong were killed in Binh Dinh, Vinh Binh, Quang Tin, and Quang Nam provinces. (Early Bird, Wash. News, 16 Feb 1965, p. 17.)
- 1 Mar USMC---In another step toward all weather capability for Marine Corps (VMF(AW) squadrons, Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 232 was redesignated Marine Fighter (All Weather) Squadron 232. The squadron just completed the transition from F8B to F8D Crusaders. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 4, Apr 1965, p. 4.)
- 6 Mar VIETNAM---It was announced that two battalions of Marines, about 3,500 men, were to be deployed to the Republic of Vietnam at the request of the Saigon government. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 4.)
- 7 Mar CONUS---Secretary of State Dean Rusk said that the American Marines that were deployed to Vietnam would shoot back if they were shot at, but their primary mission was the security of the Da Nang air base. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 4.)
- 8 Mar VIETNAM---Units of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB), under the command of Brigadier General Frederick L. Karch, arrived at Da Nang. The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division became the first U. S. ground combat unit to land in Vietnam. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 4, Apr 1965, p. 1; Unit File - 3d Mar Div.)

1965

- 20 Mar CONUS--Battalion Landing Team 2/8 from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to relieve BLT 1/2 as landing force for the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean area. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 3, Mar 1965, p. 3.)
- 22 Mar- VIEQUES---Exercise QUICK KICK VII, a joint field amphibious and airborne exercise, was
10 Apr conducted with nearly 3,500 Marines from the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, and Army paratroopers from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The purpose of the exercise was to test tactical concepts in joint operations by an actual amphibious landing and airborne assault. (Globe, v. 21, no. 10, 18 Mar 1965, p. 1.)
- 29 Mar VIETNAM---Marine Embassy guards did an excellent job in restoring order and maintaining security after a bomb exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The bombing caused heavy damage and many casualties. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 20.)
- 2 Apr USMC---Sergeant Major Herbert J. Sweet was named to succeed Sergeant Major Thomas J. McHugh as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Sergeant Major Sweet was the fourth Marine to be named to this senior enlisted billet since its establishment in 1957. (Globe, v. 21, no. 14, 8 Apr 1965, p. 1.)
- 11 Apr VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 2/3 landed at Red Beach Two at Da Nang. The battalion had been participating in Exercise JUNGLE DRUM III, a combined counterinsurgency exercise in Thailand. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 10.)
- 12 Apr VIETNAM---A reinforced company from the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines arrived at Phu Bai where a communications facility and an airport were located. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 10.)
- 14 Apr VIETNAM---Another Marine battalion, 3/4 from Hawaii, landed at Hue/Phu Bai relieving a reinforced company of 2/3. This brought the number of Marines in Vietnam to more than 8,000. (Wash. Post, 22 Apr 1965, p. 1; Naval Review, 1968, p. 10.)
- 17 Apr VIETNAM---Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron (VMCJ) 1 arrived at Da Nang. The Squadron operated in support of the Seventh Fleet and the USAF 2d Air Division. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 8, Aug 1965, p. 1.)
- 22 Apr VIETNAM---Marines fought with Communist guerrillas twice during an eight hour patrol in a valley near Da Nang air base in their first extended clash with the enemy. This operation saw the first helicopter assault landing of Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. (Evening Star, 22 Apr 1965, p. 1.)
- 25 Apr DOM REP---Six United States ships were ordered to remain off the coast of the Dominican Republic in the event it became necessary to evacuate U. S. nationals following the resignation of President Reid Cabral. Army rebels attempted an armed coup to reinstall ex-President Juan Bosch. Fierce fighting broke out between Air Force and Navy elements and pro-Bosch supporters. (Dom Diary, p. 10; USNIP, v. 91, no. 12, Dec 1965, p. 36.)
- 26 Apr DOM REP---Ships from the Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group led by the USS Boxer arrived off the coast of the Dominican Republic. These ships had 1,500 Marines on board comprising the 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit. (Dom Diary, p. 29.)
- 27 Apr DOM REP---Helicopters from HMM-264 evacuated 556 American citizens from Haina, a small Navy port seven miles west of Santo Domingo, to the ships Boxer and Raleigh. At the same time, 620 more evacuees boarded landing ships docked at the port. (Gazette, "Ubique" by MajGen R. McC. Tompkins, v. 49, no. 9, Sep 1965, p. 34.)
- 27 Apr DOM REP---Dominican Navy and Air Force Officers formed a military junta against the pro-Bosch rebels with the promise of free elections in the fall. (USNIP, v. 91, no. 12, Dec 1965, p. 40.)
- 28 Apr DOM REP--The situation in the Dominican Republic deteriorated to such an extent that the leader of the military junta requested the landing of U. S. Marines. United States Ambassador W. Tapley Bennett, Jr. then requested that Marines be landed to protect a large group of Americans in downtown Santo Domingo and to guard the embassy. (USNIP, v. 91, no. 12, Dec 1965, p. 42.)
- 28 Apr DOM REP---The 3d Battalion, 6th Marines from the Boxer, the first unit ashore, landed by helicopter in the polo field just west of the Hotel Embajador in Santo Domingo. The battalion was instructed to provide security around the U. S. Embassy and to protect American lives. (Leatherneck, v. XLIX, no. 8, Aug 1965, p. 18.)
- 29 Apr DOM REP---The Joint Chiefs of Staff authorized the landing of 500 additional troops in Santo Domingo. Shortly after this, the JCS directed the landing of the remaining elements of the 6th MEU including tanks and Ontos. This operation was named BARREL BOTTOM. (USNIP, v. 91, no. 12, Dec 1965, p. 44; Gazette, "Ubique" by MajGen R. McC. Tompkins, v. 49, no. 9, Sep 1965, p. 36.)

1965

- 30 Apr DOM REP---Marines entered the center of Santo Domingo to seal off the U. S. Embassy. Leaving the staging area at the Hotel Embajador, seven miles away, the Marines set up roadblocks near the embassy where snipers had opened fire the previous night. (Herald Examiner, 30 Apr 1965, p. 1.)
- 30 Apr DOM REP---Two Marines were killed in a block by block advance through heavy opposition. The United States forces were attempting to set up an international safety zone in the city. (Wash. Post 1 May 1965, p. 1.)
- 30 Apr DOM REP---There were 1,700 American Marines and 2,500 soldiers in the Dominican Republic. (Herald Examiner, 30 Apr 1965, p. 1.)
- 1 May DOM REP---The 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade was deployed by sea and air to the Dominican Republic. The MEB had a combat force of more than 5,500 Marines from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, North Carolina. (Geog File--Dominican Republic, 2d MarDiv News Release No. 61065.)
- 1 May DOM REP---Marines continued to move through the streets of Santo Domingo. One Marine was killed and three were wounded when rebels opened fire on Marines as they prepared to move out from Checkpoint Charlie at Avenida Presendente Rios and Calle San Juan Bosco. (Gazette, "Ubique" by MajGen R. McC. Tompkins, v. 49, no. 9, Sep 1965, p. 36.)
- 3 May VIETNAM---Major General William R. Collins, Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, arrived in Da Nang to assume command of Marine forces. Three days later, the 9th MEB was disestablished and the III Marine Expeditionary Force was established as senior Marine echelon. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 10.)
- 3 May- DOM REP---The Marine Detachment of the USS Newport News landed to occupy the University
6 May of Santo Domingo and was attached to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. This was the first Marine ship's detachment deployed under arms since the summer of 1945. (USS Newport News Ship's Detachment Command Chronology, Special Report, dated 15 Jun 1965.)
- 6 May DOM REP---Four Marines were killed and one other was wounded by rebel machine gun fire in the ambush of a medical convoy in downtown Santo Domingo. Two other Marines were captured, but were later released by the rebels. (Wash. Post, 7 May 1965, p. 1.)
- 7 May VIETNAM---The III Marine Expeditionary Force was redesignated to III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) under the command of Major General William R. Collins. The 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, while approaching the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, was also redesignated to the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade (3d MAB). (Naval Review, 1968, p. 10.)
- 7 May VIETNAM---Elements of the 3d MAB landed on the beach at Chu Lai. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 12.)
- 11 May VIETNAM---The Le My complex, eight miles northwest of Da Nang was searched and cleared by three companies of the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines. A pilot model civic action program was begun after the 400 civilians were liberated from Viet Cong control. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 13.)
- 12 May VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 3/3 came ashore at Chu Lai. This ended the amphibious operation and the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade was dissolved and its units joined III MAF. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 12.)
- 17 May DOM REP---There were 15,000 Army personnel, 5,500 Marines, and 1,000 Air Force personnel in the Dominican Republic. Hundreds more were in reserve on ships offshore. (Sunday Star, 4 Jul 1965, p. 1.)
- 24 May CONUS---General Thomas Holcomb, the first Marine officer to attain three and four star ranks and the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died at New Castle, Delaware. (Scout, v. 23, no. 21, 28 May 1965, p. 1.)
- 25 May DOM REP---After a meeting between rebel leaders and McGeorge Bundy, Presidential Assistant for National Security Affairs, the major phase of the Dominican crisis ended when a military truce was put into effect. (Dom Diary, p. 286.)
- 26 May DOM REP---After the arrival of 200 Brazilian soldiers, for the Inter-American Peace Force, Marines of BLT 3/6 began reloading on board the USS Boxer. (Dom Diary, p. 286.)
- 30 May VIETNAM---Major General Lewis W. Walt arrived at Da Nang to relieve Major General William R. Collins as Commanding General of III MAF and the 3d Marine Division. General Walt had been the director of the Landing Force Development Center, Quantico, Virginia. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 13.)
- 31 May CONUS---President Johnson announced that although the situation in the Dominican Republic continued to be serious, conditions had improved to the extent that an additional 2,000 Marines could be withdrawn. (Wash. Post, 2 Jun 1965, p. 1.)

1965

- 1 Jun VIETNAM---For the first time a Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS) was used in a war zone after Marines laid down a new air strip at Chu Lai. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 6, Jun 1965, p. 1.)
- 1 Jun VIETNAM---The Chu Lai airfield was officially opened with the arrival of eight A-4 "Skyhawks" from Cubi Point, Philippine Islands. The skyhawks were from Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 223 and VMA-311. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 13.)
- 2 Jun USMC---Seventy graduates of a class of 806 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. Six graduates of the U. S. Military Academy and two from the U. S. Air Force Academy also accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. (MS--Acad Grads in USMC.)
- 3 Jun CONUS---President Johnson ordered the withdrawal of all remaining Marines in the Dominican Republic, numbering approximately 2,100. (Wash. Post, 4 Jun 1965, p. 1.)
- 4 Jun VIETNAM---In the Da Nang and Phu Bai areas, five companies of Marines killed 79 Viet Cong in the heaviest action for the Marines since they landed in Vietnam in March. During the series of fire fights, Marines battered the enemy on the ground and from the air. Two Marines were killed and 19 wounded. (Wash. Daily News, 6 Jun 1965, p. 3.)
- 5 Jun USMC---Marine Corps casualties resulting from actions by hostile forces from 1 January 1961 through 5 June 1965 were 29 killed, 156 wounded, and 3 missing in action. There were 20 dead from causes other than hostile fire. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 232.)
- 6 Jun CONUS---Marines began returning to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from the Dominican Republic. Nine Marines died and 30 were wounded in the fighting there. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 7, Jul 1965, p. 1.)
- 7 Jun VIETNAM---There were more than 16,500 Marines in Vietnam with the total number of American military personnel over the 50,000 mark. (US Into VN, p. 42.)
- 8 Jun VIETNAM---The U. S. military command in South Vietnam was authorized to send American troops into combat alongside Vietnamese forces upon the request of the South Vietnamese government. (US Into VN, p. 43.)
- 9 Jun CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/6 arrived at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from the Dominican Republic. This completed the return of the major units deployed from the 2d Marine Division. (Geog File--Dominican Republic, 2d MarDiv News Release No. 61065, p. 4.)
- 17 Jun VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines landed at Da Nang to relieve the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines which sailed for Okinawa. The 1st Battalion assumed the responsibility for the close-in security of Da Nang air base. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 15.)
- 25 Jun CONUS---A Vietnam-bound military transport crashed in the Santa Ana Mountains after taking off from MCAS, El Toro, California. Seventy-two Marines were killed in the crash. (FOF, (1965), p. 508C.)
- Jul USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced the combining of the Corps' two major Pacific Commands, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (FMFPac) and Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (AirFMFPac). This consolidation would integrate more closely Marine ground and aviation components and simplify command structure and relations. Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak assumed overall command as Commanding General, FMFPac. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 8, Aug 1965, p. 2.)
- 1 Jul USMC---Lieutenant General Richard C. Mangrum became Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps during ceremonies at Headquarters Marine Corps. (Scout, v. 23, no. 26, 2 Jul 1965, p. 1.)
- 1 Jul VIETNAM--Battalion Landing Team 3/7, the Seventh Fleet's Special Landing Force, went ashore at Qui Nhon. The battalion was supported by HMM-163. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 16.)
- 1 Jul VIETNAM---Three aircraft were destroyed and three damaged when a Viet Cong demolitions squad got onto the flight line on the east side of the runway at Da Nang and opened fire on the south end of the field with mortar fire. During the attack on the field one airman was killed and three Marines were wounded. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 15.)
- 4 Jul VIETNAM---The 9th Marines regimental headquarters and the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, arrived in Da Nang from Okinawa. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 27, 4 Jul 1969, p. 11.)
- 7 Jul VIETNAM--The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines arrived in Vietnam to provide security and defend the Army's logistical build-up at Qui Nhon. It relieved BLT 3/7 which returned to the Seventh Fleet ships as the SLF. (Scout, v. 24, no. 23, 24 Jun 1966, p. 4; Naval Review, 1968, p. 16.)

1965

- 8 Jul VIETNAM---More Marines were landed from Navy ships at Da Nang and Qui Nhon. Within the following week, 4,600 Marines were landed. Marine landings involved an 8,000-man buildup which brought American military strength in Vietnam to almost 60,000 troops. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 8 Jul 1965, p. 1.)
- 11 Jul VIETNAM---A Marine patrol 10 miles southwest of the Da Nang air base came under Viet Cong sniper fire. Two Marines were killed and four were wounded. (Balt. Sun, 12 Jul 1965, p. 3.)
- 13 Jul VIETNAM---Marines, on a sweep operation three miles southwest of Da Nang, battled with 200 Viet Cong, killing 48. Five Marines were killed and 17 wounded. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 8, Aug 1965, p. 1.)
- 18 Jul VIETNAM---Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, on his sixth fact-finding trip to Vietnam, visited the Vietnamese I Corps and III MAF. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 16.)
- 28 Jul CONUS---President Johnson announced 50,000 more American troops would be sent to Vietnam almost immediately. This would bring U. S. military strength in Vietnam to 125,000 and additional troops would be sent as they were needed. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 16.)
- 10 Aug USMC---The Marine Corps was authorized 30,000 more men to bring its total strength to 223,100. This increase provided three new battalions and two helicopter training squadrons. These troops were needed to meet the growing commitments in the Vietnamese conflict. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 17.)
- 14 Aug USMC---Brief compulsory extensions of service for regular Marine Corps personnel were put into effect by the Navy Department to meet the growing demands of the war in Vietnam. This order affected 12,000 Marines whose tours of duty expired within the next four months. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 15 Aug 1965, p. 1.)
- 14 Aug VIETNAM---Regimental Landing Team 7, 1st Marine Division landed in Vietnam. (US Into VN, p. 46.)
- 15 Aug CONUS---About 15,000 men, forming the main body of the 1st Marine Division, left Camp Pendleton for the Far East. (San Diego Union, 3 Sep 1965, p. 19.)
- 18 Aug-23 Aug VIETNAM---After learning that the 1st Viet Cong Regiment of some 2,000 men had moved into prepared positions on the Van Tuong Peninsula, III MAF launched Operation STARLITE, the first regimental-sized U. S. battle since the Korean War. Thousands of Marines made airborne and amphibious landings in an effort to trap the Viet Cong. At the end of the four-day operation, over 700 of the enemy had been killed after Marines had closed off all possible escape routes inland from the peninsula. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 18-19; Leatherneck, v. XLIX, no. 11, Nov 1965, p. 38.)
- 1 Sep USMC---In an effort to process the 30,000 additional men authorized for the Marine Corps without an increase in instructors and existing facilities, the recruit training time was reduced from 12 to 8 weeks. It was felt that the shorter training period would not diminish the combat effectiveness of recruits. (N.Y. Times, 3 Sep 1965, p. 10.)
- 1 Sep VIETNAM---The 9th Marines began Operation GOLDEN FLEECE, which was designed to prevent the rice harvest from falling into Viet Cong hands. To this end, the Marines set up cordons and used small-unit patrols and night ambushes. All subsequent operations by III MAF to protect the rice harvest were named GOLDEN FLEECE. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 24.)
- 2 Sep VIETNAM---About 1,400 Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 36 began landing at Chu Lai. This reinforcement included a heavy helicopter unit, three medium helicopter units, and observation aircraft. (Evening Star, 3 Sep 1965, p. 7.)
- 2 Sep CONUS---Another 1,100 men from the 1st Marine Division left Camp Pendleton to join the main part of the division in the Far East. The number of 1st Marine Division Marines at Camp Pendleton was now reduced to 4,000 men. (San Diego Union, 3 Sep 1965, p. 19.)
- 2 Sep USMC---Major General Francis M. McAlister, USMC (Retired), who was commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at Oahu, Hawaii during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, died. General McAlister took part in seven campaigns in World War II and was wounded in action in Korea. (Wash. Post, 5 Sep 1965, p. 24.)
- 4 Sep CONUS---The Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and Drill Team entertained Labor Day crowds at the New York World's Fair. World's Fair officials designated the day as Salute to Marines Day. (N.Y. Daily News, 5 Sep 1965, p. 54.)
- 7 Sep USMC---The Marine Corps announced that it would probably have to start drafting men in January. Although Marine recruiting had been encouraging, more men would be needed for growing commitments in Vietnam. Volunteers increased 20 percent in August over July. (N.Y. World Telegram, 8 Sep 1965, p. 12.)

- 7 Sep VIETNAM---Marines used tear gas near Qui Nhon to remove South Vietnamese women and children from caves where Viet Cong suspects were believed to be hiding. Lieutenant Colonel Leon Utter, the commanding officer of the battalion, 2/7, felt that this was the best method of getting them out without injury. They were hiding there because the Viet Cong told them that the Marines would commit atrocities. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 8 Sep 1965, p. 1.)
- 7 Sep VIETNAM---Operation PIRANHA began on the Batangan Peninsula where a build-up of Viet Cong was supposed to be taking place. The Marines defeated a large Viet Cong band in a joint amphibious operation with South Vietnamese Marines who were helilifted into the area. At the end of the three day operation, 183 Viet Cong were killed by U. S. Marines and another 66 Viet Cong were killed by South Vietnamese Marines. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 19; Gazette, v. 49, no. 10, Oct 1965, p. 1.)
- 13 Sep VIETNAM---Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge visited the village of Le My. The 2d Battalion, 3d Marines played a vital role in winning this village back for the South Vietnamese government through its civic action program. (L.A. Times, 14 Sep 1965, p. 2.)
- 15 Sep CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 left Camp Lejeune for a three month deployment to the Caribbean. It relieved BLT 2/6 which had been conducting training operations there since June. (Globe, v. 21, no. 37, 16 Sep 1965, p. 1.)
- 21 Sep- MEDITERRANEAN---United States, Turkish, and Greek forces participated in Exercise DEEP
25 Sep FURROW which was designed to throw back any aggression on NATO countries. Marines and Greek Army forces took part in an amphibious assault on the coast of Thrace. (Early Bird, Chicago Daily News, 21 Sep 1965, p. 29.)
- 22 Sep VIETNAM---The hospital rate for Marines in South Vietnam was much lower than in other wars according to Navy medical officers. The battle casualty rate was well below expectations and there was much less disease. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 23 Sep 1965, p. 3.)
- 23 Sep VIETNAM---Lieutenant General Victor B. Krulak, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, said that Marines were receiving intensive training in civic action for Vietnam. Marines learned about counterinsurgency situations during the banana wars of the 1920s in Latin America and were putting these lessons to good use in Vietnam. (Early Bird, San Diego Union, 24 Sep 1965, p. 1.)
- 25 Sep- VIETNAM---Operation DAGGER THRUST I began on a peninsula south of Qui Nhon. Marines
26 Sep were carried from Seventh Fleet shipping to the shore by helicopters and amphibious vehicles. The Marines destroyed Communist bunkers and tunnels and then returned to their ships. This was the first of a series of amphibious raids along the coast of II CTZ conducted by Seventh Fleet Marines. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 28 Sep 1965, p. 2.)
- 30 Sep VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines began using portable generators to smoke the Viet Cong out of their underground hiding places. These generators force nontoxic smoke into tunnels and caves, forcing out the Viet Cong and pinpointing possible escape routes. (Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 3 Oct 1965, p. 3.)
- Oct FAR EAST---Due to heavy commitments in Vietnam, the Marine Corps decided to drop its rotation system of infantry battalions to the Far East. These battalions were rotating on a 30-month basis--15 months stateside duty, 13 months overseas, one month in transit, and one month on leave. Under the new system, Marines would be assigned on an individual basis to Western Pacific duty for 13 months to 2 years. (Gazette, v. 49, no. 11, Nov 1965, p. 2.)
- 4 Oct VIETNAM---Marines from the Seventh Fleet suffered no casualties in heavy fighting with Communist guerrillas. Landing three days before, during DAGGER THRUST III, Marines swept the Viet Cong from a peninsula 60 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. About 28 Viet Cong were killed and 28 captured during the amphibious offensive. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 4 Oct 1965, p. 1.)
- 4 Oct VIETNAM---Marine patrol was ambushed near Da Nang by an estimated 150 to 200 Viet Cong. Ten of the 13 members of the patrol were killed or wounded. One survivor reported that the guerrillas placed live ducks over their heads for camouflage. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 5 Oct 1965, p. 1.)
- 5 Oct CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina boarded ships at Morehead City for a five month deployment in the Mediterranean area. (Globe, v. 21, no. 40, 7 Oct 1965, p. 1.)
- 14 Oct USMC---The draft call for December was put at 45,224 men by the Department of Defense. the Marine Corps was to receive 5,024 men. (FOF, (1965), p. 375G.)
- 26 Oct USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, said that due to an increase in enlistments the Corps may be able to eliminate part of its draft call. General Greene said he hoped to have all of the 30,000 additional men authorized for the Corps by March 1966. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 27 Oct 1965, p. 2.)

1965

- 4 Nov VIETNAM---Dickey Chapelle, famed war correspondent and photographer, was killed near Chu Lai while covering the Marines during Operation BLACK FERRET. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 1, 3 Jan 1969, p. 11.)
- 5 Nov MEDITERRANEAN---Marines from Battalion Landing Team 3/2 began five days of counter-guerrilla training exercises when they landed at Aranci Bay on the northern end of Sardinia. (Globe, v. 22, no. 3, 20 Jan 1966, p. 16.)
- 7 Nov VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 2/7 boarded ships of Task Group 76.3 at Qui Nhon in preparation for Operation BLUE MARLIN. This unit, which had been operating under control of the Army in II CTZ, returned to its parent organization, the 7th Marines. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 20.)
- 9 Nov USMC---At the request of the Marine Corps, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara barred youths of 17 from duty in South Vietnam. During the Korean War, the Marine Corps restricted overseas duty to those 18 or over. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 10 Nov 1965, p. 1.)
- 10 Nov USMC---Because of an increase in enlistments the Marine Corps cancelled its December draft call for 5,024 men. (FOF, (1965), p. 415E.)
- 10 Nov VIETNAM---Operation BLUE MARLIN, the first combined American and Vietnamese Marine amphibious landing against Communist forces, began north of Chu Lai. (Da Nang Press Trends, 10 Nov 1965, p. 1.)
- 28 Nov VIETNAM---Secretary of Defense McNamara met with Major General Lewis W. Walt and was advised by General Walt that the number of Marine infantry battalions should be increased from 12 to 18 and the fighter/attack squadrons increased to eight. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 23.)
- 3 Dec USMC---The January draft call was placed at 38,280 men of which 8,980 would go to the Marine Corps. (FOF, (1965), p. 449C.)
- 5 Dec VIETNAM---Marines landing from the Seventh Fleet attacked a Viet Cong coastal stronghold 30 miles north of Qui Nhon during DAGGER THRUST V. This was an attempt to destroy the source of major Communist attacks in the past months. During the landing, 14 enemy troops were killed and enemy installations were destroyed. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 6 Dec 1965, p. 1.)
- 8 Dec VIETNAM---Thousands of Marines took part in Operation HARVEST MOON, which began in the area between Da Nang and Chu Lai. During the week-long operation, Marines accounted for over 300 Viet Cong dead and captured 50 tons of rice. (Leatherneck, v. L, no. 4, Apr 1966, p. 38.)
- 9 Dec MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 took part in an assault exercise with French Commandos at Santa Monza, Corsica. Members of the French Foreign Legion acted as the enemy as Marines stormed ashore in amphibian tractors. (Globe, v. 22, no. 1, 6 Jan 1966, p. 7.)
- 27 Dec VIETNAM---Marines killed 63 Viet Cong in skirmishes around the Da Nang air base after a short-lived Christmas truce. The Marines took only light casualties. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 28 Dec 1965, p. 1.)
- 30 Dec VIETNAM---The bodies of three Marines and eight Vietnamese troops were found in shallow graves after they had been executed in cold blood by North Vietnamese troops. They had been captured after their position had been overrun on the evening of 16 December. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 31 Dec 1965, p. 2.)

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- Jan CONUS---The deployment of the 1st Marine Division to Vietnam was approved following Secretary of Defense McNamara's visit to CinCPac in November. (Naval Review, 196B, p. 27.)
- 1 Jan USMC---Marines numbered approximately 38,500 of the 181,000 U. S. Armed Forces in Vietnam. Total Marine Corps strength was approximately 214,500. (Sea Tiger, v. 3, no. 1, 4 Jan 1967, p. 1.)
- 3 Jan- USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited Marines
15 Jan and other U. S. Forces in the Western Pacific and Vietnam. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 2, 18 Jan 1966, p. 1.)
- 6 Jan USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. and Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, Commanding General Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, stated that more Marines would be sent to Vietnam. General Krulak said Marines in Vietnam had been conducting more than 3,000 operations a month from squad size on up. (Early Bird, San Diego Union, 8 Jan 1966, p. 14.)
- 7 Jan CONUS---Under Secretary of Defense McNamara's plan to replace 75,000 servicemen with 60,500 civilians in jobs previously filled by military personnel, the Marine Corps hired 117 civilians at Camp Pendleton, California. The Marine Corps replaced 2,800 military with 2,500 civilians. (Early Bird, San Diego Union, p. 13.)
- 7 Jan SARDINIA---Marines of Battalion Landing Team 3/2 began a week of field training when they launched an amphibious landing exercise at Porto Scudo, Sardinia. This exercise familiarized the Marines with procedures of evacuating civilians from hostile areas. United States forces recently encountered similar situations in the Caribbean. (Globe, v. 22, no. 3, 20 Jan 1966, p. 16.)
- 9 Jan CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. announced that the Marine Corps had no plans for calling up the reserves at the present time, but that the Marines were taking every possible step to bring the reserves to the highest state of readiness. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 10 Jan 1966, p. 5.)
- 14 Jan USMC---About two-thirds of the Marine Corps' combat forces were deployed in the Far East, Mediterranean, and Caribbean. Well over a division was in Vietnam and battalions were rotated between Vietnam and Okinawa. Further battalions were needed to maintain this rotation and provide a reserve in the United States. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 14 Jan 1966, p. 12.)
- 15 Jan CUBA---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines was reduced in strength and deployed to the Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay to become the nucleus of the ground defense force there. (Globe, v. 22, no. 3, 20 Jan 1966, p. 1.)
- 17 Jan CONUS---Upon his return from an inspection of the forces in Vietnam, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. said that a massive, all-out effort may be necessary to end the war. General Greene added that this would presuppose a united front at home and awareness of America's own security requirements in Southeast Asia. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 18 Jan 1966, p. 1.)
- 20 Jan CONUS---President Johnson requested additional funds to activate another 18,000-man Marine Corps division to add to the three divisions currently in the Corps. (Early Bird, Wall Street Journal, 21 Jan 1966, p. 3.)
- 27 Jan CONUS---The Defense Department sent out a draft call for 22,900 men in March. The Marine Corps was to receive 5,000 men. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 28 Jan 1966, p. 4.)
- 28 Jan CARIBBEAN---The 10th Marines arrived at Vieques, Puerto Rico for FIREX-66, a major Atlantic Fleet exercise. (1966 MC Cal of Events.)
- 28 Jan VIETNAM---Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, which had been on duty in the Far East since August, was deployed to Da Nang. The squadron was formerly based at El Toro, California. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 28 Jan 1966, p. 2.)
- 28 Jan- VIETNAM---Operation DOUBLE EAGLE, a search and clear mission, was conducted in the area
17 Feb south of Da Nang by elements of the 4th Marines. This was the biggest amphibious landing since the Korean War and the largest sustained operation conducted in Vietnam by the Marine Corps to date. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 1, 4 Jan 1967, p. 1; Da Nang Press Trends, 18 Feb 1966, p. 1.)
- 31 Jan CONUS---The former director of Women Marines, Colonel Margaret M. Henderson, retired at the Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. (Scout, v. 24, no. 5, 4 Feb 1966, p. 1.)
- 7 Feb CONUS---During a closed session hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. announced that Marine Corps draftees were "making first rate Marines." (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 8 Feb 1966, p. 3.)

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- 10 Feb VIETNAM---Major General Lewis W. Walt left Da Nang for a month's temporary duty in Washington. While there, General Walt consulted with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was nominated to the rank of lieutenant general by the President. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 30.)
- 21 Feb CONUS---The ceiling on the number of lieutenant generals in the Marine Corps was raised by President Johnson to seven. Prior to this, the limit had been six. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 23 Feb 1966, p. 3.)
- 27 Feb VIETNAM---Operation NEW YORK began when the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines went to the aid of a Vietnamese Army (ARVN) Battalion that was hard pressed by a Viet Cong force. Intermittent contact continued until 3 March. The Viet Cong lost 122 men during the operation. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 29.)
- 28 Feb CONUS---Commander of the U. S. Marines in Vietnam, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, requested more forces for his area from President Johnson. These troops would be used to protect areas secured by U. S. military forces. General Walt indicated that Operation DOUBLE EAGLE could have been much more successful if he had had enough Marines to leave behind to protect the base areas. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 1 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 1 Mar VIETNAM---Operation DOUBLE EAGLE II ended. A large cache of Viet Cong weapons were seized by Marines 17 miles north of Chu Lai. The Viet Cong suffered 23 killed and 9 captured. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 8, 1 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 1 Mar CONUS---Secretary of Defense McNamara ordered the reactivation of the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California. The division, beginning with the reactivation of the 26th Marines, was expected to be fully manned within one year. (Gazette, v. 50, no. 4, Apr 1966, p. 1.)
- 1 Mar CONUS---Headquarters, Regimental Landing Team 26 was activated at Camp Pendleton, California. (Unit File - 26th Marines.)
- 4 Mar- VIETNAM---Operation UTAH began southwest of Chau Nhay in Quang Ngai Province when Marine
7 Mar helicopters landed the ARVN 1st Airborne Battalion. Joined by Marines from the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, and the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, the joint force defeated a North Vietnamese infantry regiment during a fierce four-day battle. (Naval Review, 1968, p. 29; Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 9, 15 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 6 Mar CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/8 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina on a routine training deployment to the Mediterranean. The battalion replaced BLT 3/2 as the landing force for the U. S. Sixth Fleet. (Globe, v. 22, no. 10, 10 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 8 Mar- NORWAY---Marines from the 3d Battalion, 6th Marines took part in a NATO exercise WINTER
17 Mar EXPRESS inside the Arctic Circle. Over 10,000 troops took part in the largest winter maneuver held to date by NATO. (Leatherneck, v. XLIX, no. 6, Jun 1966, p. 20.)
- 10 Mar VIETNAM---Marine helicopters evacuated Special Forces and ARVN troops at the Viet Cong-encircled camp at A Shau. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 15.)
- 10 Mar VIETNAM---Force Logistic Command was activated at Da Nang to provide for the expanding needs of III MAF. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 15.)
- 10 Mar- VIETNAM---A serious political crisis developed with the dismissal of Lieutenant General
30 Jun Nguyen Chanh Thi as the Vietnamese commander in I Corps by the National Leadership Committee. Many dissident elements joined in the rioting. Although the Marines were able to avoid any major clash with the Vietnamese, the pacification effort in I Corps suffered greatly. Viet Cong infiltration into the area also increased during this period. Political normalcy did not return until the end of June. (Concise History of USMC, p. 103.)
- 15 Mar- CONUS---A Unified Atlantic Command Exercise, CLOVE HITCH I, was conducted at Camp Lejeune,
1 Apr North Carolina. The exercise was designed to increase proficiency in joint amphibious and airborne operations and to perfect coordination and communications between participating forces. (Globe, v. 22, no. 11, 17 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 20 Mar- VIETNAM---During Operation TEXAS, Marines killed 149 Viet Cong as they swept through
23 Mar the area north of Quang Ngai. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 11, 29 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 20 Mar- VIETNAM---Operation OREGON began when a multi-company force of Marines moved into Viet
23 Mar Cong territory 15 miles north of Hue. Thirteen Viet Cong were reported killed. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 11, 29 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 26 Mar- VIETNAM---The Seventh Fleet SLF conducted a surface and helicopter assault against Viet
7 Apr Cong forces operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone in Operation JACKSTAY. The VC there were threatening to block the channel to Saigon by mining a ship. This was the first USMC operation in III CTZ. (Seventh Fleet Amphibious Operations, p. 4.)

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- 30 Mar VIETNAM---The U. S. Marine billet at Da Nang was surrounded by 2,000 taunting South Vietnamese. The protesters, who were mainly students, claimed that Marines beat several students after a collision between a U. S. truck and a civilian bus. A number of witnesses, including an Army officer, said that no one had been beaten by the Marines. (Early Bird, N.Y. Herald Tribune, 31 Mar 1966, p. 11.)
- 31 Mar VIETNAM---In six sweep and destroy missions conducted in the areas around Chu Lai and Phu Bai during the month of March, Marines killed 1,382 Viet Cong. Friendly casualties were light. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 13, 15 Apr 1966, p. 1.)
- 31 Mar VIETNAM---The Department of Defense officially announced that the 1st Marine Division had joined other U. S. forces in Vietnam. Division headquarters was established at Chu Lai. For the first time since World War II, the U. S. Marine Corps had two divisions, the 1st and 3d, committed to combat in a war zone. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 1 Apr 1966, p. 8.)
- 31 Mar CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after serving as the Mediterranean landing force for six months. It was replaced by BLT 1/8 from Camp Lejeune. (Globe, v. 22, no. 13, 31 Mar 1966, p. 1.)
- 1 Apr VIETNAM---After a little over a year in Vietnam, U. S. Marines have received almost 5,000 purple hearts and Marine flyers have been awarded almost 10,000 air medals. Marines in Vietnam numbered more than 45,000. (Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 2 Apr 1966, p. 5.)
- 1 Apr CONUS---The 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was reactivated and began training at Camp Pendleton, California. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 5 Apr CONUS---Headquarters, 13th Marines, an artillery regiment, was reactivated at Camp Pendleton, California. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 11 Apr VIETNAM---An 11-day search and destroy mission, Operation ORANGE, ended 25 miles south west of Da Nang with 57 Viet Cong killed and 6 captured. Marine casualties were described as light. (Da Nang Press Trends, 3 Apr 1966, p. 8.)
- 17 Apr VIETNAM---Operation NEVADA ended 23 miles south of Chu Lai. This six-day operation, which began on 12 April, was conducted by the 7th Marines on the Cape Batangan Peninsula. Over 50 Viet Cong were killed and 6 captured. (Da Nang Press Trends, 15 Apr 1966, p. 3.)
- 19 Apr CONUS---Marine Helicopter Training Group 30 was established at Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, California to train pilots and mechanics. The group had 50 helicopters and 6,000 personnel assigned. Men who completed training were assigned to land- or carrier-based squadrons. (Flight Jacket, v. 23, no. 16, 22 Apr 1966, p. 1.)
- 22 Apr- CONUS---Units of FMFLant demonstrated the readiness of the East Coast air/ground team in
26 Apr Special Purpose Exercises (SPEX) for the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) at Camp Lejeune and New River, North Carolina. The exercise included amphibious landings, close air support shows, and Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS) demonstrations. (Globe, v. 22, no. 16, 21 Apr 1966, p. 1.)
- 23 Apr VIETNAM---Operation HOT SPRINGS, conducted by the 7th Marines, ended in the area six miles northwest of Quang Ngai. More than 140 Viet Cong were killed since the operation began on 21 April. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 16, 10 May 1966, p. 1.)
- 26 Apr VIETNAM---Regimental Landing Team 7 was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Streamer for its action in Operation STARLITE in August 1965, thus becoming the first Marine ground unit in Vietnam to receive this award. (Scout, v. 24, no. 16, 29 Apr 1966, p. 3.)
- 27 Apr CONUS---The Navy League announced that "The Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence" would be awarded to Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt. This award is given annually to the Marine Corps or Navy officer or enlisted man who made an outstanding personal contribution in advancing the course of actual Naval Operations. (Scout, v. 24, no. 16, 29 Apr 1966, p. 3.)
- 10 May VIETNAM---Operation GEORGIA, a 20-day search and destroy mission, ended south of Da Nang with 103 Viet Cong killed. Marine casualties for the operation were light. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 17, 24 May 1966, p. 1.)
- 11 May USMC---For the first time in history, jet aircraft have been launched from a land-based catapult during combat. Pilots from Marine Fighter Squadron 311 launched four Skyhawks from Chu Lai. Planes were airborne within 1,400 feet of the 8,000-foot runway. (The Observer, v. V, no. 2, 16 May 1966, p. 10.)
- 12 May USMC---The Marine Corps agreed to a request from the Agency for International Development (AID), Department of State that Marine Corps officers serve with the AID program in South Vietnam as provincial representatives. (MCBul 1301, 121446Z/16 (May 1966).)

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- May CONUS---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after completing a four-month deployment at the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The 2d Battalion, 2d Marines left Camp Lejeune the week before for deployment to Guantanamo. (Globe, v. 22, no. 19, 12 May 1966, p. 1.)
- May CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. activated the first Marine Corps-oriented Junior Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at Jesuit High School, New Orleans, Louisiana. (DOD News Release No. 380-66.)
- May CUBA---A Cuban soldier was shot to death by a Marine guard at U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo. The State Department said that the sentry had fired a shot to warn the Cuban soldier who was inside the base. Another shot was fired as the Cuban was climbing over the fence. (FOF, (1966), p. 263.)
- May CUBA--Five armed Cuban soldiers intruded into the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo, but were driven away by Marine fire. (FOF, (1966), p. 263.)
- May CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., CMC, and Lieutenant General Richard C. Mangrum, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated that the Federal Government should be rebuilding the fleet which was proved to be worn out and inadequate by the Vietnam war. They urged that the Merchant Marine be kept strong in times of peace to meet the needs in times of war. (Early Bird, Wash. News, 27 May 1966, p. 18.)
- Jun VIETNAM---Operations ATHENS, RENO, BEAVER, FLORIDA, APACHE, DODGE, JAY, and OAKLAND accounted for a combined total of 1,233 Viet Cong killed during the month of June. (Scout, v. 24, no. 25, 15 Jul 1966, p. 5.)
- Jun CONUS---The 5th Marine Division Headquarters was activated at Camp Pendleton, California. (Gazette, v. 50, no. 7, Jul 1966, p. 4.)
- Jun CONUS---The 2d Battalion and 3d Battalion, 27th Marines were reactivated as part of the 5th Marine Division. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- Jun HAWAII---The 1st Battalion, 27th Marines was reactivated at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay as part of the 1st Marine Brigade. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- Jun VIETNAM---It was announced that during the month of May, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew 26,829 sorties, killing 75 Viet Cong, and destroying 707 enemy structures. (Scout, v. 24, no. 24, 1 Jul 1966, p. 8.)
- Jun CONUS---Eighty graduates of a class of 870 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS--Acad Grads in USMC.)
- Jun VIETNAM---Two Marine battalions, on their way to the jump-off point for a major military operation against the Viet Cong, were delayed for four hours by Buddhists during anti-government demonstrations in the city of Hue. A wall of Buddhist youths surrounded the battalions and Vietnamese authorities had to be called in to clear the way. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 11 Jun 1966, p. 10.)
- Jun CONUS---Marine Corps Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., stated that U. S. methods in Vietnam were "winning the trust, respect and friendship of the long-suffering South Vietnamese people and bolstering their confidence." (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 11 Jun 1966, p. 9.)
- Jun- PUERTO RICO---BEACH TIME, a major Atlantic Fleet exercise, was conducted in the Atlantic
Jun and Caribbean. The highlight of the exercise came with the amphibious landing of 3,500 Marines from the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade on Vieques, Puerto Rico. This exercise was designed to enhance the readiness and training of the forces. (Globe, v. 22, no. 24, 16 Jun 1966, p. 1.)
- Jun VIETNAM---An enemy force of more than 250 men was driven back by 18 Marines in a fierce six-hour battle. The fighting started when the Viet Cong attacked an outpost near Chu Lai. With most of their ammunition gone, the Marines fought with bayonets, knives, and rocks. Five Marines were killed and 11 wounded. More than 40 of the enemy were killed including some who had been bayoneted. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 18 Jun 1966, p. 1.)
- Jun VIETNAM---Six hundred Marines from the Seventh Fleet Special Landing Force swarmed ashore in an amphibious assault in Operation DECKHOUSE I 25 miles south of Qui Nhon. The Marines, in conjunction with Army units, met with only slight resistance and captured two Viet Cong. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 20 Jun 1966, p. 2.)
- Jun CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/26, part of the recently activated 5th Marine Division, landed at Camp Pendleton during Operation SILVER POINT I. This was the first amphibious operation of the 5th Marine Division since the landing on Iwo Jima in 1945. (Scout, v. 24, no. 23, 24 Jun 1966, p. 1.)

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- 25 Jun CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/26 (Rein) embarked for the Western Pacific. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 25 Jun VIETNAM---Operation JAY began 13 miles northwest of Hue with the landing of men from
2 Jul the 4th Marines. Enemy forces were boxed in when the 1st Marines was air lifted into a blocking position four miles to the south. The enemy was defeated in the two-day battle. (Sea Tiger, v. 2, no. 24, 12 Jul 1966, p. 1.)
- 26 Jun VIETNAM---Two Marines who made a daring escape from their Viet Cong captors arrived in Saigon. Sergeant James S. Dodson and Lance Corporal Walter Eckes had been captured separately by the Viet Cong in early May near Da Nang. The two men were able to overpower their guards and escape. After a four-day journey through mountain jungles and rice fields, they made contact with U. S. Marines at An Hoa. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 27 Jun 1966, p. 1.)
- 30 Jun CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 began a routine training deployment with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The battalion relieved Battalion Landing Team 1/8. (Globe, v. 22, no. 26, 30 Jun 1966, p. 12.)
- 4 Jul- VIETNAM---Operation MACON, a search and clear mission, began southwest of Da Nang.
20 Oct (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 15.)
- 7 Jul- VIETNAM---Operation HASTINGS, the Marine Corps' largest multi-battalion operation to
4 Aug date, was conducted in Quang Tri province. Over 11,000 Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched the massive drive against an estimated 10,000 troops. The enemy suffered 882 killed and 15 captured. The Marines suffered moderate casualties. (Da Nang Press Trends, 4 Aug 1966, p. 1; FOF, (1966), p. 285.)
- 13 Jul CONUS---For the fiscal year 1967, President Johnson signed a bill authorizing \$17 billion in military procurement and defense research. Navy and Marine Corps research received \$1,801,160,000. (FOF, (1966), p. 285.)
- 17 Jul VIETNAM---During Operation HASTINGS, a thousand Marines hit the beach near the demilitarized zone. The Marines set up a blocking force designed to draw out and destroy a North Vietnamese Army division that was supposed to have crossed the DMZ. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 18 Jul 1966, p. 1.)
- 19 Jul CONUS---Training continued to bring the newly activated 5th Marine Division to combat readiness as SILVER POINT II, an amphibious assault exercise, was conducted at Camp Pendleton, California. (Scout, v. 24, no. 26, 22 Jul 1966, p. 1.)
- 25 Jul VIETNAM---India Company, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines was ambushed by North Vietnamese troops just south of the demilitarized zone. Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines was ambushed only 1,000 yards from India Company's position. The two companies managed to link up in spite of fierce fighting and break out of the enemy's trap. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 26 Jul 1966, p. 1.)
- 27 Jul CONUS---The Department of Defense announced that the armed forces reached a combined strength of 3,093,356 men on 1 July with 261,659 men in the Marine Corps. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 27 Jul 1966, p. 5.)
- 31 Jul VIETNAM---During the month of July, Marines accounted for a total of 1,611 Viet Cong killed. The significant operations were HASTINGS and MACON. Marine jets logged 5,780 missions. (Scout, v. 24, no. 30, 19 Aug 1966, p. 7.)
- 12 Aug VIETNAM---Marine pilots took part in a raid near Haiphong on four petroleum and oil dumps. (FOF, (1966), p. 297.)
- 16 Aug- VIETNAM---Over 2,000 Marines from the 5th Marine Division landed 100 miles east of
29 Aug Saigon to participate in Operation DECKHOUSE III, the second USMC operation in III CTZ. The purpose of the landing was to trap North Vietnamese troops massing in Binh Tuy province. (FOF, (1966), p. 330.)
- 20 Aug OKINAWA---Headquarters Regimental Landing Team 26 arrived on Okinawa and later became part of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 20 Aug VIETNAM---Operation ALLEGHANY began 15 miles southwest of Da Nang in Quang Nam province. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 15.)
- 24 Aug VIETNAM---Marine pilots took part in several raids on North Vietnamese communications centers and oil installations. Nearby, 200 targets were hit around the cities of Dong Hoi, Vinh, and Thanh Hoa near Hanoi. (FOF, (1966), p. 329.)
- 26 Aug CONUS---About 250 Marines from Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to participate in Exercise BAR FROST above the Arctic Circle in Norway. The exercise was designed to give a multi-nation force an opportunity to work together in tactical operations. (Globe, v. 22, no. 34, 25 Aug 1966, p. 1.)

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- 1 Sep VIETNAM---The newly organized 5th Marine Division was in combat for the first time since World War II when the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines participated in Operation ALLEGHENY southwest of Da Nang. (Gazette, v. 50, no. 10, Oct 1966, p. 1.)
- 2 Sep CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/26 departed from San Diego for the Western Pacific. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 6 Sep USMC---Women Marine volunteers were requested for service in the Far East. By February 1969, there were about 100 Women Marines stationed on Okinawa, Japan, and South Vietnam. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 5.)
- 13 Sep CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for duty as the Caribbean Landing Force. The battalion relieved Battalion Landing Team 3/6 which had been conducting training operations in the Caribbean since June. (Globe, v. 22, no. 37, 15 Sep 1966, p. 1.)
- 15 Sep VIETNAM---Operation DECKHOUSE IV began in Quang Tri province with BLT 1/26 and HMM-363. It ended three days later with 83 enemy killed and 11 individual weapons captured. (Da Nang Press Trends, 22 Sep 1966, p. 11.)
- 17 Sep- VIETNAM---During the annual rice harvest protection operation, GOLDEN FLEECE, Marines
27 Sep protected the harvesting of 7,620 tons of rice and captured 727 tons of Viet Cong rice in Quang Ngai province. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 15.)
- 10 Oct VIETNAM---Units of III MAF were shifted northward to prevent a possible North Vietnamese push across the demilitarized zone. The 1st and 3d Divisions were moved north, while an Army airborne battalion moved into Da Nang to reinforce the Marine base there. For the first time an Army infantry unit had been committed in the Marine sector in the Vietnam war. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 11 Oct 1966, p. 1.)
- 14 Oct- MEXICO---A joint task force of Marine, Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel (BOLD FACE)
16 Oct airlifted food and supplies to Tampico to victims of Hurricane INEZ. (Strike, v. V, no. 7, Oct 1966, p. 1.)
- 17 Oct USMC---To meet its expanding needs in Vietnam the Marine Corps decided to defer resignations and retirement requests of some pilots and key maintenance officers. This applied to approximately 500 of the 21,500 active duty officers in the Corps. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 18 Oct 1966, p. 1.)
- 1 Nov VIETNAM---With the arrival of VMA(AW)-242 at Da Nang, a new fixed-wing type of aircraft, the A-6A "Intruder," was introduced in Vietnam. The Intruder worked effectively in the monsoon weather and could drop its ordnance on a moving target hidden by darkness or weather. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 119.)
- 1 Nov CONUS---Four Marines from Camp Pendleton, California died while fighting a brush fire in the Piedro de Lumbré Canyon area. (Scout, v. 24, no. 41, 4 Nov 1966, p. 1.)
- 4 Nov CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for deployment in the Mediterranean to relieve BLT 2/6. While in the Mediterranean, BLT 2/6 conducted training exercises with other American units and allied forces in the area. (Globe, v. 22, no. 44, 3 Nov 1966, p. 1.)
- 12 Nov VIETNAM---The Marine Corps had established 40 Combined Action Platoons in the I Corps area of South Vietnam. These teams were usually comprised of a Marine squad and a platoon of South Vietnamese Popular Force troops. Because of the great success of these teams, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt planned to have 75 Combined Action Platoons by the end of the year. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 12 Nov 1966, p. 6.)
- 14 Nov VIETNAM---Two U. S. Marine helicopters were shot down by Viet Cong snipers near Da Nang air base. Five crewmen were killed and two wounded. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 15 Nov 1966, p. 1.)
- 28 Nov- CARIBBEAN--- A U. S. Atlantic Fleet exercise, LANTFLEX 66, was conducted in the Carib-
16 Dec bean. Five thousand Marines of the Atlantic Fleet Marine Force tested amphibious assault techniques. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 5.)
- 28 Nov CARIBBEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/8 relieved BLT 3/2 which had been conducting training operations in the Caribbean since June. The battalion conducted extensive training operations with supporting tanks, artillery, and helicopters from HMM-162. (Globe, v. 22, no. 48, 1 Dec 1966, p. 1.)
- 6 Dec CONUS---Sergeant Robert Emmett O'Malley became the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor since the Korean War. As squad leader in Co I, 3/3, he led repeated assaults against the enemy who were inflicting heavy casualties on a nearby Marine unit in Operation STARLITE, 18 August 1965. (Sea Tiger, v. II, no. 45, 21 Dec 1966, p. 3.)

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- 10 Dec CONUS---Marine Corps' Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., after completing a two-day tour of Marine operations in Vietnam, said that the Vietnam war had put a strain on the Corps' manpower and materiel resources, but added that the Corps had met every commitment. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 11 Dec 1966, p. B-1.)
- 11 Dec VIETNAM---The 3d Battalion, 26th Marines landed in Vietnam and was placed under operational control of the 4th Marines at Dong Ha. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 1, 4 Jan 1967, p. 1.)
- 19 Dec VIETNAM---Operation CHINOOK began with the 2d and 3d Battalions, 26th Marines. The purpose of this operation was to prevent Viet Cong access to the rice-rich coastal area by blocking infiltration routes from the mountains to Hue. The operation ended 16 February 1967. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 117.)
- 23 Dec VIETNAM---Prior to the scheduled start of the two-day Christmas truce, U. S. Marines engaged Communist troops in heavy fighting in the northern part of Vietnam. During the 50-minute clash eight enemy troops were reported killed. Marine casualties were described as light. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 23 Dec 1966, p. 1.)
- 31 Dec USMC---The Marine Corps took 14,980 draftees during the year to supplement the ranks of the Corps. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 1, Jan 1969, p. 4.)
- 31 Dec USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps to date was 281,709 with 22,874 officers and 258,835 enlisted. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 1, 4 Jan 1967, p. 1.)

1967

- 1967 USMC---Thirty-eight Marines were assigned as members of the U. S. Marine Detachment, Canadian World Exposition 1967. These men, all veterans of Vietnam, were to provide the security at the U. S. Pavilion at the exposition. (Leatherneck, v. L, no. 9, 9 Sep 1967, p. 22.)
- 3 Jan- USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., after returning from his fifth trip to the Far East, stated that nearly one-fourth of the Marine Corps (22 percent) was in combat in Vietnam. (Gazette, v. 51, no. 2, Feb 1967, p. 1.)
- 11 Jan
- 5 Jan- VIETNAM---Operation DECKHOUSE V, the first use of U. S. combat troops in the Mekong Delta, began when the Seventh Fleet Special Landing Force went ashore 62 miles south of Saigon. Comprised of Battalion Landing Team 1/9 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362, the SLF worked in conjunction with two Vietnamese Marine battalions. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 117.)
- 15 Jan
- 5 Jan VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 2/4 arrived at Da Nang from Okinawa relieving BLT 3/9 which left Vietnam for Okinawa. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 118.)
- 6 Jan CARIBBEAN---The 1st Battalion, 8th Marines left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for a four-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The battalion relieved the 1st Battalion, 2d Marines and became part of the ground defense forces at the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo. (Globe, v. 23, no. 1, 5 Jan 1967, p. 1.)
- 12 Jan CONUS---General Holland M. ("Howlin' Mad") Smith, USMC (Retired), the father of modern U. S. amphibious warfare, died at Balboa Naval Hospital. General Smith was one of America's top commanders in the Pacific during World War II and he led the V Amphibious Corps in the assaults on the Gilberts, Marshalls, and Marianas. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 3, 19 Jan 1967, p. 1.)
- 16 Jan USMC---Qualified enlisted Marines who demonstrated exceptional leadership in combat could again be awarded battlefield commissions. (1967 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 16 Jan- CARIBBEAN---A one-month live firing exercise, FIREX-67, began when the 10th Marines left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for Vieques, Puerto Rico. Units from the 6th and 17 Jan 8th Marines, 2d Field Artillery Group, and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing also participated in the exercise. (Globe, v. 23, no. 3, 19 Jan 1967, p. 1.)
- 17 Jan CONUS---The 28th Marines was reactivated at Camp Pendleton, California as part of the 5th Marine Division. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 18 Jan VIETNAM---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363 became the helicopter element of the Seventh Fleet Special Landing Force replacing Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 which went to the Ky Ha Air Facility at Chu Lai. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 118.)
- 23 Jan PACIFIC---The 1st Battalion, 27th Marines left Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to take part in its first battalion exercise since its reactivation. (Windward Marine, v. 17, no. 1, 5 Jan 1968, p. 4.)
- 25 Jan VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 1/4 replaced BLT 1/9 as the Seventh Fleet Special Landing Force while 1/9 relieved BLT 1/3 at Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Battalion Landing Team 1/3 was rotated to Okinawa on 8 February. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 118.)
- 31 Jan VIETNAM---After 182 days, Operation PRAIRIE I was terminated in Quang Tri province by the 4th Marines with 215 Marines killed and 1,159 wounded. This operation, which began on 3 August 1966, was the longest and bloodiest Marine engagement of the Vietnam war up to that time. The enemy lost 1,397 killed and 27 captured. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 117.)
- 31 Jan CONUS---1st Lieutenant Frank S. Reasoner was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam in 1965. The presentation was made by the Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze at ceremonies at the Pentagon. ("Reasoner.")
- 1 Feb VIETNAM---Operation PRAIRIE II began in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed. (67 Comm Chronology, p. 3.)
- 7 Feb CONUS---Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Navy Under Secretary Robert B. Baldwin for action in Vietnam during Operation STARLITE in August 1965. ("Paul.")
- 8 Feb- VIETNAM---All offensive operations stopped during Tet, the Lunar New Year holiday. 12 Feb During the cease fire agreed to by both sides, Marines counted 141 enemy truce violations, ranging from sniper rounds to mortar barrages. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 119.)
- 10 Feb USMC---Company F, Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, which provides Marines for foreign service duty at 100 posts in 89 countries, was redesignated Marine Security Guard Battalion (State Department). (1967 Chronology, p. 2.)

- 12 Feb- VIETNAM---Operation STONE was conducted by the 1st Marines in Quang Nam province.
22 Feb During the operation, Marines destroyed Viet Cong caves, tunnels, and bunkers and surrounded the Viet Cong in La Haun village. The Marines killed 291 VC at a cost of 9 Marines KIA. (1967 Chronology, p. 2.)
- 13 Feb CONUS---Since Marines of III MAF would soon be using the M16-1 rifle against the enemy in Vietnam, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, and Staging Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California received the rifle for testing. It would be used by selected personnel in conjunction with contingency training. This weapon was to replace the M-14 and the M-76 Grenade Launcher. (Globe, v. 23, no. 8, 23 Feb 1967, p. 1.)
- 16 Feb VIETNAM---Operation CHINOOK I ended northwest of Hue. The operation, which began on 19 December 1966, was conducted by the 4th Marines with elements of the 9th and 26th Marines. The enemy lost 159 dead and 5 prisoners. Marine casualties were 4 killed and 73 wounded. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 117.)
- 21 Feb VIETNAM---Author and authority on Vietnam, Dr. Bernard B. Fall, was killed by an enemy mine while accompanying a Marine patrol during Operation CHINOOK II, 14 miles northwest of Hue. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 2, Feb 1969, p. 25.)
- 25 Feb VIETNAM---The authority was given to III MAF to fire artillery into the Demilitarized Zone and the southern part of North Vietnam. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 119.)
- 27 Feb CONUS---Captain Harvey C. Barnum received the Medal of Honor from Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze for action in Vietnam in December 1965. ("Barnum.")
- 3 Mar VIETNAM---Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which began on 16 February, ended southeast of Quang Ngai city. The SLF, composed of BLT 1/4 and HMM-363, accounted for 280 of the enemy killed and suffered only 8 KIA and 80 WIA. (Da Nang Press Trends, 4 Mar 1967, p. 6; Naval Review, 1969, p. 119.)
- 6 Mar CONUS---Marine Air Refueler/Transport Squadron 252 completed eight years and 94,641 accident free flying hours. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 11, 16 Mar 1967, p. 1.)
- 17 Mar VIETNAM---In what was possibly the first tank landing from a LST onto a hostile beach since Korea, the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines and eight tanks were landed at Phuoc Dien, south of Chu Lai. Jets and helicopters neutralized the beach before the landing. (Gazette, v. 51, no. 4, Apr 1967, p. 2.)
- 17 Mar CONUS---Operation SHAMROCK, involving 2,000 Marines from the 2d Marine Division, ended at Camp Pickett, Virginia. This was one of the largest continental operations of the division since 1952. The purpose of the operation was to test division procedures for field operations. (Globe, v. 23, no. 12, 23 Mar 1967, p. 6.)
- 18 Mar VIETNAM---Operation PRAIRIE II ended and Operation PRAIRIE III began. Both operations were under the control of the 3d Marine Division. (Da Nang Press Trends, 19 Mar 1967, p. 3.)
- 18 Mar VIETNAM---Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky reported to the Military Assistance Command in Saigon. She was the first Woman Marine to be ordered to a combat zone. Shortly after her arrival, Sergeant Dulinsky was joined by six other Women Marines. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 5.)
- 22 Mar VIETNAM---Operation NEW CASTLE, a three-day search and destroy operation, was launched in Quang Nam province. During the operation, 118 enemy were killed. (67 Comm Chronology, p. 8.)
- 24 Mar HAWAII---Elements of the 5th Shore Party Battalion and 5th Motor Transport Battalion arrived at Kaneohe Bay from Camp Pendleton, California to reinforce the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines. (Windward Marine, v. 17, no. 1, 5 Jan 1968, p. 4.)
- 27 Mar VIETNAM---Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, commander of III MAF, said that rooting out the Viet Cong guerrilla would take a long time, perhaps 15 years. (Early Bird, Newsweek, 27 Mar 1967, p. 24.)
- 6 Apr CONUS---A Senate subcommittee on military preparedness said that the Marine Corps and Navy were suffering from shortages of pilots and experienced noncommissioned officers and in supplies and maintenance facilities to meet the demands of the Vietnam war. The report went on to praise Marine Corps and Navy officers and men in Vietnam saying they "are magnificent examples of the American fighting man at his best." (Early Bird, N. Y. Times, 7 Apr 1967, p. 1.)
- 7 Apr VIETNAM---Operation DESOTO was ended by units of the 7th Marines southeast of Quang Ngai city. The operation, which began on 26 January, accounted for 383 of the enemy killed and the capture of over 100 tons of rice. Marines suffered 69 killed and 556 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 8 Apr 1967, p. 2.)

1967

- 12 Apr CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, reported to a Congressional committee that to do the job right in Vietnam, 40,000 more Marines were needed. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 123.)
- 14 Apr CONUS---Major General Littleton Waller Tazewell Waller, Jr., the first Marine Corps Reserve general, died in Pennsylvania. He participated in five major campaigns in World War I and served in the Canal Zone, Peking, and Vera Cruz. During World War II, he returned to active duty as Director of Personnel. (Gazette, v. 51, no. 5, May 1967, p. 1.)
- 14 Apr HAWAII---The 1st Battalion, 27th Marines left Kaneohe Bay for Camp Pendleton, California for an amphibious training exercise, Operation ALLIGATOR HIDE, with the newly formed 5th Marine Division. (Windward Marine, v. 17, no. 1, 5 Jan 1968, p. 4.)
- 15 Apr VIETNAM---At the request of the South Vietnamese government, Marines began clearing an area near the DMZ. Barbed wire was strung, mines laid, and radar units set to detect the movement of human beings. It was hoped that this plan would make a direct invasion from the north too costly to be attempted. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 16 Apr 1967, p. 1.)
- 17 Apr VIETNAM---Four thousand Army troops took over pacification duties at Chu Lai, freeing U. S. Marines to be sent north to reinforce defenses along the DMZ. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 18 Apr 1967, p. 10.)
- 20 Apr OKINAWA---Regimental Landing Team 26 moved from Okinawa to the Republic of Vietnam. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 22 Apr CARRIBBEAN---Exercise CLOVE HITCH III, a joint training exercise, began in the Caribbean area when more than 3,000 Marines from Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina joined Army, Navy, and Air Force units. The exercise was designed to provide training in joint operations for all headquarters and commands involved. (Windsock, v. 25, no. 13, 30 Mar 1967, p. 1.)
- 22 Apr VIETNAM---Operation SHAWNEE was launched in Thua Thien Province by three Marine battalions. By the middle of May two of these battalions were shifted to the north to reinforce troops along the DMZ. With only one battalion remaining the operation was renamed CHOCTAW on 22 May. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 130.)
- 24 Apr VIETNAM---Marines launched an attack in an effort to dislodge Communist troops from Hills 861 and 881 near Khe Sanh. Intelligence sources indicated that the North Vietnamese had a regiment in the area. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 3 May 1967, p. 1.)
- 28 Apr VIETNAM---Hill 861 in Quang Tri Province was taken by the 2d and 3d Battalions, 3d Marines with the aid of air strikes and artillery fire. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 124.)
- 29 Apr VIETNAM---Marine Corps reconnaissance planes from Da Nang spotted a North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile located 10 miles north of the DMZ. The site was shelled and destroyed by Marine and Army artillery, naval gunfire, and F-4B Phantoms from the Marine bases at Chu Lai and Da Nang. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 1 May 1967, p. 1.)
- 30 Apr VIETNAM---The 2d Battalion, 3d Marines attacked Hill 881 North, while the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines attacked Hill 881 South. Hill 881 South was taken three days later. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 124.)
- 1 May VIETNAM---Marines from the 3d Regiment in attempting to dislodge Communist troops from Hill 881 lost 49 killed and 156 wounded in the fighting. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 2 May 1967, p. 1.)
- 2 May CONUS---President Lyndon B. Johnson posthumously awarded Staff Sergeant Peter S. Connor the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam in February 1966. ("Connor.")
- 2 May VIETNAM---Marines succeeded in taking Hill 881 from North Vietnamese forces. This prevented the Communists from using the high ground for an attack on Khe Sanh. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 3 May 1967, p. 1.)
- 8 May VIETNAM---Savage fighting broke out along the DMZ when North Vietnamese troops attempted to capture the base camp at Con Thien. During the battle 35 Marines were killed and 99 wounded. The North Vietnamese lost 179 killed. Later that day, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt visited the scene of the battle and escaped unhurt when a mortar round exploded 15 feet away. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 9 May 1967, p. 1.)
- 11 May- VIETNAM---The fights for Hill 881 North and Hill 881 South ended as the 3d Marines
13 May moved to Dong Ha and the 26th Marines to Khe Sanh. The North Vietnamese lost 940 killed with Marine losses 155 killed in action. (Khe Sanh, p. 181.)

1967

- 12 May VIETNAM---Elements of the 3d Marines ended Operation BEACON STAR. The operation began on 22 April with an amphibious and heliborne assault northwest of Hue. (Da Nang Press Trends, 14 May 1967, p. 3.)
- 14 May VIETNAM---Operation BEAVER CAGE which began on 28 April was terminated northwest of Tam Ky. The amphibious operation conducted by SLF Alpha, including BLT 1/3 and HMM-263, accounted for 181 enemy killed, 66 detainees, and 11 weapons captured. (Da Nang Press Trends, 14 May 1967, p. 4; Naval Review, 1967, p. 123.)
- 17 May VIETNAM---Operation UNION, conducted by the 1st and 5th Marines, ended in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. The operation began on 22 April. The Marines accounted for 865 of the enemy killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 25 May 1967, p. 1; Naval Review, 1967, p. 123.)
- 21 May VIETNAM---Operation SHAWNEE, which began 22 April near Phu Bai, was terminated. The operation was conducted by the 4th Marines and had 117 confirmed Viet Cong kills. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 24, 16 Jun 1967, p. 1.)
- 22 May CONUS---Congressman James J. Howard of New Jersey told the House of Representatives that the M-16s in Vietnam jammed. Congressman Howard read a letter to the House of Representatives in which an unidentified Marine claimed that the jammed M-16s were responsible for the deaths of many Americans in the fight for Hill 881 North at Khe Sanh. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 136.)
- 26 May- VIETNAM---Operation UNION II was launched in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces with the
6 Jun 5th Marines and ARVN's 1st Ranger Group. The following day heavy contact was made with 28 North Vietnamese and 28 Marines killed. The operation ended on 6 June with 701 enemy killed. The 5th Marines suffered 110 dead and 241 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 26 May 1967, p. 4; Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 24, 16 Jun 1967, p. 1.)
- 27 May CONUS---General Greene stated that the Marine Corps had found the M-16 was extremely well suited for the jungle conditions encountered in Vietnam. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 136.)
- 31 May USMC---Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman took command of the U. S. Marine force in Vietnam, relieving Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt. (1967 Chronology, p. 5.)
- 6 Jun VIETNAM---Operation UNION II ended with 701 enemy killed. The 5th Marines suffered 110 dead and 241 wounded. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 24, 16 Jun 1967, p. 1.)
- 7 Jun USMC---Eighty-six graduates of a class of 888 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. One graduate of the U. S. Military Academy also accepted a commission in the Marine Corps. (MS--Acad Grads in USMC.)
- 22 Jun CONUS---General Franklin A. Hart, USMC (Ret.) died at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was a veteran of three major wars--World War I, World War II, and Korea. (1967 Chronology, p. 5.)
- 23 Jun CONUS---Twenty Marines, training for duty in Vietnam, were killed when a HU-1B helicopter crashed into a Sea Stallion (CH-53A) helicopter over Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. (FOE, 1967, p. 336C.)
- 1 Jul USMC---Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. became Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. ("Chapman")
- 2 Jul VIETNAM---Operation BUFFALO began when an enemy force estimated at 5 battalions attacked the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines a few miles northeast of Con Thien. Intense fighting broke out during the first few days of the operation in which 84 Marines were killed. When the operation ended on 14 July, the enemy had lost 1,301 dead while Marine losses were placed at 113 killed and 290 wounded. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 130.)
- 7 Jul CONUS---President Johnson signed an executive order authorizing the promotion of qualified Marine first lieutenants to captain after completing only one year in grade instead of two. It was hoped that this would increase the number of captains needed for commands in Vietnam and other duty stations. (1967 Chronology, p. 6.)
- 9 Jul VIETNAM---Operation CHOCTAW ended north of Phu Bai with 160 enemy soldiers killed. The operation was conducted by the 4th Marines. (Sea Tiger, v. III, no. 31, 4 Aug 1967, p. 1.)
- 14 Jul- VIETNAM---One Marine was killed and 30 were wounded when they were attacked by enemy
16 Jul troops on the second day of Operation HICKORY II. The Marines, on a sweep south of the DMZ when the attack came, killed 25 enemy troops during the all-day battle. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 17 Jul 1967, p. 1.)

1967

- 24 Jul VIETNAM---Marine jets hit the Thai Nguyen power plant 30 miles north of Hanoi. (Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 25 Jul 1967, p. 12.)
- 31 Jul CONUS---The largest amphibious assault exercise ever held at Camp Pendleton began with air and ground and regular and reserve Marines. The exercise, called GOLDEN SLIPPER, was designed to test the ability of reservists to join quickly with regular forces in amphibious operations. (Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 1 Aug 1967, p. 4.)
- 1 Aug VIETNAM---American troop strength in the Republic of Vietnam included 78,000 Marines. (67 Comm Chron, p. 17.)
- 11 Aug USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated that although the Marines were making considerable progress in Vietnam, the civic action program had slowed down due to increased fighting along the DMZ. (Windward Marine, v. 16, no. 32, 18 Aug 1967, p. 1.)
- 13 Aug VIETNAM---Two companies from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines were attached to the 9th Marines for Operation KINGFISHER which began 16 July. They were transferred because of a decrease of enemy action around Khe Sanh. The operation terminated 31 October 1967 in the DMZ area with over 1,100 NVA and VC killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 1 Nov 1967, p. 3; Khe Sanh, p. 181.)
- 16 Aug USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. said that the 4th Marine Division and Aircraft Wing would not be mobilized in spite of the fact that the Marines needed more combat troops in Vietnam. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 16 Aug 1967, p. 18.)
- 17 Aug USMC---Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. received the Armed Forces Management Association 1967 Merit Award for promoting improved management techniques within the Marine Corps. (1967 Chronology, p. 7.)
- 18 Aug CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 left Camp Lejeune for a six month deployment in the Mediterranean area with the Sixth Fleet. (Globe, v. 23, no. 33, 18 Aug 1967, p. 1.)
- 21 Aug CONUS---Gunnery Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard received the Medal of Honor from President Johnson at ceremonies at the White House for action in Vietnam in June 1966. ("Howard")
- 28 Aug VIETNAM---About 150 enemy rocket and artillery rounds hit Dong Ha destroying 2 aircraft and damaging 24. Marble Mountain Air Facility was also attacked; 3 helicopters were destroyed and 20 damaged. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 133.)
- 28 Aug CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. stated before a closed session of a Senate subcommittee that attacks on more targets in North Vietnam should be permitted. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 31 Aug 1967, p. 1.)
- 30 Aug VIETNAM---Three Marines were killed and 54 wounded and 18 helicopters were damaged when enemy mortar rounds hit Phu Bai. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 133.)
- 3 Sep VIETNAM---The remaining elements of the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines left Khe Sanh for eastern Quang Tri Province. (Khe Sanh, p. 181.)
- 6 Sep CUBA---The 3d Battalion, 2d Marines was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba from Camp Lejeune. The battalion relieved 3/6 and served as part of the group defense force at Guantanamo Naval Base. (Globe, v. 23, no. 36, 8 Sep 1967, p. 1.)
- 12 Sep CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for a training deployment in the Caribbean relieving BLT 2/2 which had been conducting training operations there since April. (Globe, v. 23, no. 32, 1 Aug 1967, p. 2.)
- 13 Sep VIETNAM---Six Marines were killed and 109 wounded when North Vietnamese forces attacked Con Thien. They tried to knock out Marine positions which would block an invasion from the north. (Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 14 Sep 1967, p. 5.)
- 15 Sep VIETNAM---Operation SWIFT, an 11-day search and destroy operation, ended northwest of Tam Ky. A total of 571 enemy were killed. Friendly casualties were placed at 127 killed and 352 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 16 Sep 1967, p. 1.)
- 18 Sep VIETNAM---The situation became grave at the outposts of Con Thien and Cam Lo when monsoon rains arrived earlier than usual and caused unprecedented floods along the DMZ. At least 10 Marines were killed by the floodwaters while others were in foxholes up to their waists in water. The greatest problem faced by the Marines was supplying the outposts. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 19 Sep 1967, p. 2.)
- 25 Sep VIETNAM---The North Vietnamese struck Con Thien with more than 1,000 rounds of rocket and artillery fire. Two Marines were killed and 202 wounded. This was one of the heaviest bombardments made on Con Thien. Since 1 September the casualties at Con Thien reached 63 dead and 987 wounded. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 27 Sep 1967, p. 8.)

1967

- 27 Sep VIETNAM---Again the outpost at Con Thien became the target of Communist rocket and artillery fire in what has become the worst sustained bombardment against Americans in the Vietnam war. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 28 Sep 1967, p. 3.)
- 30 Sep CONUS---Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt said in Chicago that the only way to silence enemy guns that have been hitting Marines along the DMZ is to go in and destroy them since they were underground. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 2 Oct 1967, p. 13.)
- 4 Oct VIETNAM---Marines were shifted north to reinforce troops along the DMZ when the Army's 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) arrived at Quang Tin and Quang Ngai to take over Marine positions. (FOF, 1967, p. 443E.)
- 4 Oct VIETNAM---Since enemy barrages began on Con Thien on 1 September, it was estimated that the North Vietnamese suffered 3,000 casualties, almost three times the number suffered by Marines. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 5 Oct 1967, p. 1.)
- 5 Oct CONUS---Marine astronaut, Major Clifton C. Williams, Jr., was killed when his T-38 jet trainer crashed at Tallahassee, Florida. Major Williams was en route to Cape Kennedy. He was the eighth American astronaut to be killed since the space program began. (1967 Chronology, p. 9.)
- 5 Oct VIETNAM---The 1st Marines moved north to Quang Tri from Da Nang and a few days later began Operation MEDINA. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 136.)
- 9 Oct VIETNAM---Lieutenant Colonel Gorton C. Cook, commanding Marines at Con Thien, said that until a few days ago North Vietnamese forces had surrounded the outpost on three sides and were within 300 yards of Con Thien. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 10 Oct 1967, p. 1.)
- 20 Oct VIETNAM---Operation MEDINA, which began on 11 October, was terminated in southern Quang Tri Province. During the operation 54 enemy and 34 Marines were killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 19 Oct 1967, p. 3.)
- 24 Oct VIETNAM---Marine, Navy, and Air Force jets hit Phuc Yen Airfield which was the control center for North Vietnamese air defense. During the raid 10 MIGs were destroyed. (67 Comm Chron, p. 23.)
- 25 Oct CONUS---Major Howard V. Lee received the Medal of Honor from President Johnson for action in Vietnam in August 1966. ("Lee")
- 27 Oct CONUS---Within two years, the Department of Defense planned to double the number of Negro officers in the Marine Corps. At that time, there were 155 Negro officers in the Corps. A committee was organized to study how to increase Negro officer procurement. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 28 Oct 1967, p. 10.)
- 1 Nov VIETNAM---During Operation SCOTLAND, Battalion Landing Team 1/26 reinforced the hard-pressed defenders at Khe Sanh. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 1 Nov VIETNAM---Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey visited III MAF at Da Nang where he presented the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer to the 3d Marine Division. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 137.)
- 3 Nov USMC---A destroyer escort, USS Gray, was launched. The ship was named for Sergeant Ross F. Gray who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for action on Iwo Jima. (Gazette, v. 52, no. 1, Jan 1968, p. 2.)
- 8 Nov CONUS---Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, Director of Women Marines, attended ceremonies at the White House where President Johnson signed a bill giving servicewomen equal promotion opportunities with servicemen. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 5.)
- 10 Nov CONUS---President Johnson celebrated the 192d Anniversary of the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, California. He was the first President to visit the base since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942. (Scout, v. 25, no. 44, 17 Nov 1967, p. 2.)
- 14 Nov VIETNAM---Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth died in a helicopter crash. General Hochmuth was on his way to Dong Ha when his UH-1E exploded and crashed five miles northwest of Hue. Major General Rathvon McC. Tompkins was named as his replacement as Commanding General, 3d Marine Division. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 138.)
- 27 Nov- CONUS---The largest Pacific amphibious exercise conducted in three years was held at
9 Dec Camp Pendleton, California. More than 8,000 Marines of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade took part in Operation BLUE LOTUS which introduced situations and problems faced in Vietnam. (Gazette, v. 52, no. 1, Jan 1968, p. 4.)

1967

- 5 Dec CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/8 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for deployment with the Caribbean Ready Force. It relieved BLT 2/6 which had been in the Caribbean since August. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 from New River provided helicopter support. (Globe, v. 23, no. 49, 8 Dec 1967, p. 1.)
- 7 Dec USMC---Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt was named to be the next Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps on 1 January 1968. (FOF, 1967, p. 538E.)
- 13 Dec CONUS---The Senate confirmed the nomination of Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. as the 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Chapman will succeed General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. on 1 January 1968. President Johnson nominated General Chapman for the position on 4 December. (FOF, 1967, p. 538D.)
- 13 Dec VIETNAM---Battalion Landing Team 3/26 was ordered to Khe Sanh to help counter increased enemy activity against the outpost. (Khe Sanh, p. 181.)
- 20 Dec CONUS---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by President Johnson for his meritorious service to the government while Commandant. This was the second such award presented to General Greene. (Naval Affairs, v. 47, no. 2, Feb 1968, p. 3.)
- 23 Dec VIETNAM---American forces in Vietnam numbered 478,000 including 78,000 Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 30 Dec 1967, p. 3.)
- 26 Dec VIETNAM---Marine aircraft from Da Nang and Chu Lai struck targets in North Vietnam near Dong Hoi and Hanoi. Other Marine aircraft hit targets north of Gio Linh. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 28 Dec 1967, p. 1.)

1968

- 1 Jan USMC---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. became the 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps with four star rank. ("Chapman")
- 1 Jan VIETNAM---There were 298,498 Marines in the Corps with 81,249 of these in Vietnam. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 293.)
- 2 Jan USMC---Colonel Barbara J. Bishop completed her fourth year as Director of Women Marines and had her tour extended one additional year by the Commandant. (1968 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 3 Jan VIETNAM---Operation AUBURN, a combined search and destroy operation which began on 28 December 1967, was terminated. The operation, which was conducted by the 5th Marines, centered around the area southwest of Hoi An and resulted in 37 enemy killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 5 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 3 Jan CONUS---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. held his first press conference since becoming Commandant. During the conference, General Chapman suggested that the rockets which had shelled Da Nang air base earlier that day could have been placed in the area during the holiday truce: (Balt. Sun, 4 Jan 1968, p. 2.)
- 3 Jan- FAR EAST---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. made an official inspection trip to Marine
17 Jan bases in Vietnam and the Western Pacific. (1968 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 4 Jan CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/2 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for deployment in the Mediterranean as part of the Mediterranean Landing Force. It relieved BLT 1/2 which had been on station in the Mediterranean since August. (Globe, v. 24, no. 1, 5 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 8 Jan VIETNAM---A Marine CH-53 helicopter crashed in Vietnam killing the crew of 5 and 36 passengers. (1968 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 11 Jan CONUS---A transport from the Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico, Virginia crashed into a mountain in Nevada killing all 19 on board. Twelve members of the Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team were among those killed. (Windward Marine, v. 17, no. 3, 19 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 11 Jan VIETNAM---The 5th Marines was moved from the area south of Da Nang to bolster defenses along the border zone. It was sent to the northernmost area where allied troops face a threat from 25,000 North Vietnamese. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 12 Jan 1968, p. 4.)
- 16 Jan VIETNAM---The 26th Marines completed its move to Khe Sanh. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 296.)
- 16 Jan CONUS---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for an extended tour of duty at the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The battalion colors were permanently installed there. Before this, battalions were rotated every 90 days. Individual Marines would serve a three month tour of duty before being rotated on a man-to-man basis. The battalion relieved 3/8. (Globe, v. 24, no. 3, 19 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 17 Jan VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, an element of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, began arriving in Phu Bai. This was the first of the promised Army reinforcements to arrive in northern I Corps which relieved Marine units, enabling them to move farther north. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 297.)
- 17 Jan CONUS---A month long training exercise, FIREX 1-68, began when Marines from the 10th Marines, 2d Field Artillery Group, and 8th Communications Battalion sailed for Vieques, Puerto Rico. Over 2,600 officers and men were scheduled to take part in the exercise. The 1st Battalion, 8th Marines was to participate in the amphibious assaults. (Globe, v. 24, no. 3, 19 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 19 Jan VIETNAM---Company I, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was attacked by 25 North Vietnamese soldiers near Khe Sanh. Two platoons from Company M, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines were flown to Hill 881 South as reinforcements. (Khe Sanh, p. 182.)
- 20 Jan VIETNAM---The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 297.)
- 22 Jan- VIETNAM---Two Marines, Corporal Steven D. Nelson and Lance Corporal Michael R. Rohn,
23 Jan escaped from a North Vietnamese camp north of Da Nang. The Marines were captured on 7 January. After escaping, they walked barefoot along mountainous jungle trails until they arrived at the perimeter of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. (1968 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 23 Jan KOREA---North Koreans captured the USS Pueblo and its crew, including two Marines. (1968 Chronology, p. 1.)

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- 23 Jan VIETNAM---North Vietnamese soldiers moved closer to the base perimeter at Khe Sanh. Marine patrols in the hills around Khe Sanh killed 61 Communists without suffering any casualties themselves. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 24 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 25 Jan VIETNAM---Enemy reinforcements began massing near Khe Sanh. A Marine spokesman estimated that the North Vietnamese had concentrated 35,000 men within 10 to 20 miles of Khe Sanh. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 26 Jan 1968, p. 1.)
- 30 Jan VIETNAM---Due to frequent violations by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units, President Thieu cancelled the Tet truce. Da Nang received 40 rounds of rocket and mortar fire. (DOD News Release, No. 30-68, 30 Jan 1968; Geog File - Vietnam.)
- 31 Jan VIETNAM---Enemy troops gained virtual control of the city of Hue. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 300.)
- 1 Feb CONUS---Sergeant Major Herbert J. Sweet was extended in his post as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps for an indefinite period of time. Sergeant Major Sweet had already served two and a half years in the post. (Globe, v. 24, no. 5, 2 Feb 1968, p. 1.)
- 1 Feb VIETNAM---Elements of the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines and 1st Battalion, 1st Marines began clearing the part of Hue that was south of the Perfume River. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 300.)
- 2 Feb CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after serving more than five months as the ready landing force in the Mediterranean. This unit was relieved by BLT 2/2. (Globe, v. 24, no. 6, 9 Feb 1968, p. 1.)
- 4 Feb- VIETNAM---Marines began a house to house search in Hue and were able to retake the
9 Feb province headquarters, jail, and hospital. By 9 February, the last organized resistance south of the Perfume River had ended with 1,053 of the enemy killed. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 300.)
- 5 Feb VIETNAM---A North Vietnamese battalion attempted an assault on the western slope of Hill 861A, but was driven back when Company E, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines counter-attacked. The enemy lost 109 killed and the Marines had 7 killed in action. (Khe Sanh, p. 183.)
- 6 Feb VIETNAM---The 66th NVA Regiment, 304th Division captured the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei, 6 miles southwest of Khe Sanh. Marine helicopters rescued 14 of the 20 U. S. Special Force Green Berets and over 70 Vietnamese at the camp. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 301.)
- 6 Feb VIETNAM---Marines, fighting in the city of Hue, tore down the Communist flag flying over the provincial headquarters building and replaced it with the Stars and Stripes. (Early Bird, ABC Evening News, ABC-TV, 6 Feb 1968.)
- 10 Feb CONUS---General Harry Schmidt, USMC (Retired) died at San Diego, California. General Schmidt received the Navy Cross and three Distinguished Service Medals. He led the 4th Marine Division in the Marshall Islands and Saipan campaigns and commanded the V Amphibious Corps at Tinian and Iwo Jima. (1968 Chronology, p. 2.)
- 12 Feb VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines joined South Vietnamese forces, moving into Hue from the north by helicopter and landing craft. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 300.)
- 13 Feb CONUS---The Department of Defense announced that one brigade of an Army division and one regiment from the 5th Marine Division would be sent to Vietnam. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 14 Feb 1968, p. 1.)
- 13 Feb USMC---Women Marines marked their 25th Anniversary of continuous active service in the Marine Corps. (1968 Chronology, p. 2.)
- 13 Feb VIETNAM---The Marine Command in Vietnam reported that Marines killed 1,078 North Vietnamese and 52 Viet Cong during the past two weeks in Hue. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 13 Feb 1968, p. 1.)
- 17 Feb CONUS---The 27th Marines and the 2d Battalion, 13th Marines left El Toro, California for Vietnam to bolster forces during the Communist Tet Offensive. President Lyndon B. Johnson was present when the Marines left. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 10, 8 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 23 Feb VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 27th Marines arrived at Da Nang to help halt the Tet offensive. (Navy Times, v. 19, no. 15E, 21 Jan 1970, p. 19.)
- 23 Feb VIETNAM---Khe Sanh Combat Base received more than 1,300 rounds of rocket and artillery fire. During the entire month of February the enemy fired 4,404 rounds at Khe Sanh. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)

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- 24 Feb VIETNAM---The city of Hue was declared secure after a 25-day battle. A combined force of Marines, Army, and South Vietnamese forces killed over 4,500 Communists and captured large amounts of supplies. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 10, 8 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 26 Feb USMC---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. said that critical shortages of pilots and specialists continued in the Marine Corps. Although the Corps' strength was at 300,000, it was not enough to meet the demands on the Marine Corps. (Observation Post, v. XII, no. 10, 8 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- Mar CONUS---The "Bronco" School at Camp Pendleton, California was activated. The school, named for the OV-10A "Bronco," one of the Marines' newest fixed-wing aircraft used in counterinsurgency operations, teaches repair and maintenance of the OV-10A. (Navy Times, v. 18, no. 21E, 5 Mar 1969, p. 29.)
- 1 Mar- VIETNAM---Sharp fighting broke out in several areas along the DMZ. At Khe Sanh, the
7 Mar enemy began digging trenches near the 26th Marines perimeter. Fighting broke out northeast of Con Thien and near Cua Viet on the South China Sea. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 11, 15 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 3 Mar VIETNAM---Elements of the 3d Marines, with air and artillery support, killed 136 North Vietnamese troops four miles northeast of Con Thien. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 11, 15 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 5 Mar CONUS---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. said that Communist forces had failed in their objectives during the Tet offensive. He felt that this offensive could be attributed to the fact that enemy planners were convinced that they were losing in the guerrilla effort. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 6 Mar 1968, p. 9.)
- 6 Mar VIETNAM---General William C. Westmoreland publicly expressed his "great admiration" for the Marines in Vietnam, from their commanding general, Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., "down to the lowest private." (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 7 Mar 1968, p. 10.)
- 6 Mar CONUS---Nine students drowned at the Quantico Physical Fitness Academy. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 12 Jul 1968, p. C10.)
- 6 Mar VIETNAM---An Air Force C-123 Provider was shot down east of the runway at Khe Sanh killing 43 Marines, 1 sailor, and 4 Air Force crew members. (Khe Sanh, p. 184.)
- 8 Mar VIETNAM---Statistics show that the Marines have borne the brunt of the heavy fighting in Vietnam. Marines number about 80,000 and the Army about 330,000, but Marines have had three men killed for every five soldiers killed and three men wounded for every four soldiers wounded. During February, the Marines had 449 killed and about 4,000 wounded at Hue and Khe Sanh. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 9 Mar 1968, p. 11.)
- 10 Mar VIETNAM---The Provisional Corps, Vietnam (PCV) was activated in northern I Corps as a single tactical headquarters to control the 3 American Divisions operating there. It was given operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry, the 101st Airborne Division, and the 3d Marine Division in addition to corps troops. It replaced MACV Forward. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 302.)
- 10 Mar VIETNAM---The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's fixed-wing strike aircraft were placed under operational control of the Commanding General, Seventh Air Force. It was hoped that this "single manager" concept for tactical air would combine into a single system the best features of Marine and Air Force tactical air support systems. (Naval Review, 1970, pp. 302-303.)
- 12 Mar CONUS---Major Robert J. Modrzejewski and 2d Lieutenant John J. McGinty, III were presented the Medal of Honor by President Johnson for separate actions in Vietnam in July 1966. ("Modrzejewski"; "McGinty")
- 15 Mar- VIETNAM---A comparative lull in ground fighting became apparent this week through-
22 Mar out most of South Vietnam. Enemy forces were supposedly regrouping after suffering severe losses during the Tet offensive. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 13, 29 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 22 Mar CONUS---The Marine Aviation Cadet Program, which provided men without college degrees an opportunity to earn commissions as Marine Aviators, ended. Since its beginning in 1959, 1,293 Marines became aviators. The present Aviation Program demands a college degree. (1968 Chronology, p. 4.)
- 23 Mar VIETNAM---The Marine outpost at Khe Sanh received 625 rocket, mortar, and artillery shells. Marine casualties were described as light. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 25 Mar 1968, p. 1.)

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- 24 Mar VIETNAM---The first Marine patrol to leave the Khe Sanh base perimeter in almost a month engaged an enemy force around the base. Marine patrols were forbidden to leave after 23 Marines from Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines were killed in an ambush on 25 February. (Khe Sanh, p. 122; Early Bird, Chicago Tribune, 26 Mar 1969, p. 13.)
- 30 Mar VIETNAM---Since 1 January 1961 to date, Marine combat deaths have totaled 6,893. (1968 Chronology, p. 4.)
- 31 Mar VIETNAM---Operation SCOTLAND ended in Quang Tri Province with 1,561 enemy killed and 204 Marines killed. The operation, which began on 31 October 1967, was under the control of the 26th Marines and reinforced by elements of the 9th Marines. (DOD News Release, No. 93-68, 2 Apr 1968; Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 31 Mar VIETNAM---Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., Commanding General, III MAF, commanded 163,000 troops in I Corps. This was more than any other Marine general in history. (1968 Chronology, p. 4.)
- Apr USMC---Of the 48,000 men who were drafted in April; 4,000 went into the Marine Corps. (Flight Jacket, v. 25, no. 10, 8 Mar 1968, p. 1.)
- 1 Apr VIETNAM---Operation PEGASUS was launched by the Army's 1st Cavalry Division to relieve the Marines at Khe Sanh. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 24 Jul 1968, p. 10.)
- 2 Apr VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 27th Marines was attached to the 1st Marine Division. The battalion moved to Hue where it participated in mop-up operations. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 5 Apr CONUS---When riots broke out in Washington, D. C. following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., two companies of Schools Demonstration Troops from Quantico, Virginia and a composite company from the Marine Barracks, Washington assisted in quelling the riots. These troops remained there until 12 April. (1968 Chronology, p. 5.)
- 8 Apr VIETNAM---The seige at Khe Sanh ended when 1st Cavalry Division troops linked up with the 26th Marines and conducted official relief at the combat base. (Khe Sanh, p. 186.)
- 14 Apr VIETNAM---Marines attacked Hill 881 North near Khe Sanh where enemy troops had retreated after the combat base was relieved. Elements of the 26th Marines declared this hill secure in the afternoon. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 15 Apr 1968, p. 1.)
- 16 Apr VIETNAM---The Marine squadrons in Quang Tri were formed into Provisional MAG-39. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 307.)
- 16 Apr CONUS---Private First Class Douglas E. Dickey was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by the Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam during Operation BEACON HILL I. ("Dickey")
- 18 Apr VIETNAM---The 26th Marines was relieved at Khe Sanh and was withdrawn to Dong Ha and Camp Carroll. (Khe Sanh, p. 186.)
- 18 Apr CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 left Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to become the landing force in the Mediterranean, relieving BLT 2/2. (Globe, v. 24, no. 17, 26 Apr 1968, p. 1.)
- 30 Apr VIETNAM---It was disclosed that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese killed more than 1,000 South Vietnamese in Hue during the Tet Offensive. Among those killed were government workers, priests, and women. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 1 May 1968.)
- 1 May VIETNAM---Captain Peter A. Kruger flew his 500th combat sortie setting a new Marine Corps jet combat record in Vietnam. Captain Kruger flew an A-4 Skyhawk. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 1, 3 Jun 1969, p. 6.)
- 3 May CONUS---President Johnson announced that he had received word that the government of North Vietnam was prepared to meet with U. S. representatives at Paris to begin peace talks. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 4 May 1968.)
- 4 May VIETNAM---Operation ALLEN BROOK was launched by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines when it moved onto Go Noi Island. Three days later the Marines made contact with the enemy killing 30 North Vietnamese. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 24, 14 Jun 1968, p. 1.)
- 14 May CONUS---The Medal of Honor was awarded to a soldier, sailor, Marine, and Air Force officer by President Johnson at ceremonies at the Pentagon. This was the first time that members of all the military services received the award at the same time. Marine Sergeant Richard A. Pittman received the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam. (FOF, 1968, p. 220.)

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- 14 May CONUS---At the Pentagon, a Hall of Heroes was dedicated, honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor. The plaques on the wall list more than 3,200 Medal of Honor recipients. Marines had been awarded 242 Medals of Honor prior to the war in Vietnam. (Naval Affairs, v. 47, no. 6, Jun 1968, p. 10.)
- 16 May VIETNAM---Operational control of ALLEN BROOK passed from the 7th Marines to the 27th Marines. (Naval Review, 1969, p. 306.)
- 18 May VIETNAM---The 7th Marines launched Operation MAMELUKE THRUST southwest of Da Nang. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 307.)
- 19 May VIETNAM---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines was attacked by North Vietnamese troops southeast of Khe Sanh. The Marines lost 8 dead and 42 wounded but the enemy suffered 109 killed. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 21 May 1968, p. 1.)
- 30 May VIETNAM---The 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, during Operation ALLEN BROOK, began to search and clear enemy strongpoints and avenues of infiltration south of Da Nang. During this operation, the battalions of the 27th Marines rotated in its conduct. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 1 Jun USMC---Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak retired after a 34-year career in the Marine Corps. General Krulak was relieved in command of the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific by Lieutenant General Henry W. Buse, Jr. and was presented the Distinguished Service Medal. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 2 Jun 1968, p. 7.)
- 4 Jun VIETNAM---Brigadier General Carl W. Hoffman stated that the North Vietnamese still wanted Khe Sanh and the Marine forces in the area had killed about 1,300 North Vietnamese troops within four miles of Khe Sanh. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 6 Jun 1968, p. 5.)
- 6 Jun USMC---Eighty-five graduates of a class of 839 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. One graduate from the U. S. Military Academy and one from the Air Force Academy also accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. (MS--Acad Grads in USMC.)
- 7 Jun VIETNAM---A large enemy force northeast of An Hoa attacked elements of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. The Marines inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy with the support of artillery and air strikes. (1968 Chronology, p. 7.)
- 15 Jun VIETNAM---The 4th Marines engaged enemy troops near Khe Sanh and inflicted heavy casualties. The North Vietnamese were driven back with the aid of artillery and helicopter gunships. (1968 Chronology, p. 7.)
- 26 Jun VIETNAM---It was announced that Khe Sanh Combat Base would be abandoned and that other combat bases to the east would be built up. These bases were Landing Zone Stud and the hilltop camps of Hawk, Cates, and Mike. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 27 Jun 1968, p. 1.)
- 26 Jun IWO JIMA---Twenty-three years after the Marines captured the island, Iwo Jima was returned to Japan. This island was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting during World War II. Over 6,800 Americans and 19,000 Japanese died in the fighting. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 26 Jun 1968, p. 3.)
- 29 Jun CONUS---Marine Lieutenant Colonel Haywood Smith was appointed to the post of Armed Forces Aide to the President. President Johnson chose Lieutenant Colonel Smith to succeed Brigadier General James Cross, USA. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 30 Jun 1968, p. 5.)
- 1 Jul CONUS---Headquarters and Service Company and Company B, 4th Anti-Tank Battalion were deactivated. The USMCR training center at Hulare, California where these units were located, was also deactivated. (Gazette, v. 52, no. 8; Aug 1968, p. 5.)
- 5 Jul VIETNAM---The 1st Marines and the 11th Engineer Battalion completed the dismantling of Khe Sanh. About 3,500 Marines moved out in trucks after the last bunkers were destroyed. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 311; Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 6 Jul 1968, p. 1.)
- 6 Jul VIETNAM---Marine Observation Squadron (VMO) 2 at Dong Ha received OV-10 "Broncos" as the first planes arrived in Vietnam. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 1, 3 Jan 1969, p. 7.)
- 8 Jul VIETNAM---For the past four days Marines fought a series of battles with enemy troops along the eastern end of the DMZ. Most of the fighting took place near the combat base at Gio Linh. The Marines, supported by artillery, planes, and warships, killed 201 North Vietnamese while suffering only 10 killed and 81 wounded. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 9 Jul 1968, p. 1.)

- 11 Jul- CONUS---The oldest living Marine Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant William C. Horton, was
13 Jul the guest of General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. in Washington where he received the Good Conduct Medal awarded 65 years late due to a clerical oversight. Sergeant Horton received the Medal of Honor in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion in China. (Scout, v. 26, no. 32; 9 Aug 1968, p. 5.)
- 26 Jul CONUS---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. began a 15-day tour of Marine installations. During his trip the Commandant visited Alaska, Okinawa, Bangkok, and spent five days in Vietnam. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 34, 23 Aug 1968, p. 1.)
- 28 Jul VIETNAM---An element of the 1st Marine Division was ambushed by an enemy force dug-in near Da Nang. Reinforcements were rushed to the area. Nineteen Marines were killed and 32 wounded in the fierce fighting. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 31 Jul 1968, p. 3.)
- 5 Aug USMC---A Marine detachment was activated on board the newly commissioned aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy. (Gazette, v. 52, no. 8, Aug 1968, p. 5.)
- 15 Aug VIETNAM---The Provisional Corps, Vietnam was redesignated the XXIV Corps. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 313.)
- 15 Aug VIETNAM---Marines again crossed into the DMZ when two platoons of Company A, 3d Tank Battalion supported a South Vietnamese attack on an enemy battalion. During the attack, 421 North Vietnamese were killed and 2 boats and 1 truck destroyed. (Gazette, "Combined Operations with ARVN," by MajGen R. G. Davis, v. 53, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 18.)
- 21 Aug CONUS---Private First Class James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by the Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam in February 1967. Anderson was the first Black Marine to win the Medal of Honor. (Scout, v. 26, no. 36, 6 Sep 1968, p. 1.)
- 24 Aug VIETNAM---Operation ALLEN BROOK, which began on 4 May under the control of the 7th Marines, was terminated. The operation was a search and clear mission to neutralize enemy forces and installations. The enemy lost 1,017 killed while Marine casualties were 172 killed and 1,124 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 26 Aug 1968, p. 3.)
- 27 Aug CONUS---Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor to 2d Lieutenant John P. Bobo for action in Vietnam in March 1967. ("Bobo")
- 31 Aug USMC---To date, 9,196 Marines have died in the war in Vietnam. (DOD News Release No. 826-68, 5 Sep 1968, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- Sep VIETNAM---A new group ordnance record was set this month when Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 334 delivered more than 800 tons of ordnance on enemy targets north and south of the DMZ. (Scout, v. 27, no. 2, 10 Jan 1969, p. 7.)
- 2 Sep- VIETNAM---The 3d Marines took Mutter's Ridge, north of the Rockpile near the DMZ, and
11 Sep then secured Hill 461. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 315.)
- 5 Sep CONUS---Sergeant Walter K. Singleton was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam in March 1967. (Globe, v. 24, no. 36, 6 Sep 1968, p. 1.)
- 9 Sep VIETNAM---Operation SUSSEX BAY, which began on 29 August, ended in an area nine miles west of Hoi An. The operation was under the control of the 5th Marines. The enemy lost 65 killed while Marine losses were 12 killed and 24 wounded in the scattered action. (DOD News Release No. 254-68, 10 Sep 1968, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 9 Sep VIETNAM---The 9th Marines captured Dong Tien Mountain from enemy forces northwest of the Rockpile, as 3d Marine Division units prevented the 320 NVA Division from crossing the DMZ. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 315.)
- 10 Sep VIETNAM---The first unit of the 27th Marines left Vietnam for Camp Pendleton, California. This was the first American unit to leave Vietnam since the build-up of troops in 1965 other than rotation of units to Okinawa and Japan. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 38, 20 Sep 1968, p. 12.)
- 13 Sep VIETNAM---Company A, 3d Tank Battalion again went into the DMZ with South Vietnamese troops from the 2d ARVN Regiment. The tanks helped to break the enemy defenses and enabled the South Vietnamese to gain their objective. (Gazette, "Combined Operations with ARVN," by MajGen R. G. Davis, v. 53, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 18.)
- 16 Sep CONUS---Regimental Landing Team 27 arrived at San Diego and was greeted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Secretary of the Navy. (Unit File - 5th Mar Div.)
- 16 Sep VIETNAM---A unit from the 26th Marines suffered heavy casualties when North Vietnamese troops fired 200 mortar rounds into Marine positions near the Rockpile artillery base. During the shelling 25 Marines were killed and 126 wounded. (Early Bird, Morning News CBS-TV, 17 Sep 1968.)

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- 17 Sep VIETNAM---Brigadier General William C. Chip was seriously injured in a helicopter crash as he was directing a sweep by Task Force Hotel near the DMZ. General Chip suffered a fractured spine and was evacuated to the U. S. Hospital Ship Sanctuary. (1968 Chronology, p. 11.)
- 18 Sep- VIETNAM---More than 33 tons of enemy munitions and weapons and 4 tons of rice were
19 Sep seized by elements from the 3d Marine Division in Quang Tri Province near the DMZ. (DOD News Release No. 265-68, 21 Sep 1968; Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 23 Sep CONUS---Lance Corporal Roy M. Wheat was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam in August 1967. (Globe, v. 24, no. 38, 27 Sep 1968, p. 1.)
- 29 Sep VIETNAM---In an attempt to slow enemy infiltration across the DMZ, Marines established Fire Base Sandy on a peak 2,100 feet high. It was the highest military position in the Republic of Vietnam. (Early Bird, Huntley-Brinkley Report, NBC-TV, 30 Sep 1968.)
- Oct USMC---Since the beginning of the program in June 1965, more than 8,000 enlisted Marines have earned meritorious combat promotions. (Gazette, v. 52, no. 11, Nov 1968, p. 13.)
- 3 Oct USMC---The Department of Defense announced that 17,500 men would be drafted in December and that 2,500 would go into the Marine Corps. This was the first time since May that the Marines were required to use draftees. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 1, Jan 1969, p. 4.)
- 5 Oct VIETNAM---American troops in Vietnam reached 540,000. This figure included 84,000 Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 10 Oct 1968, p. 4.)
- 9 Oct VIETNAM---A memorial service was held for Marines who died in the fighting at Khe Sanh where Operation SCOTLAND II took place. During the seige there, American casualties totaled more than a thousand. (Leatherneck, v. LIII, no. 2, Feb 1969, p. 58.)
- 11 Oct USMC---One of the three astronauts on board the Apollo VII during its 11-day journey through space was Marine Reserve Major Walter Cunningham. (1968 Chronology, p. 12.)
- 14 Oct CONUS---The 2d Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion was relocated to Twentynine Palms, California after being deployed in Vietnam for three years. The battalion was replaced by a similar U. S. Army unit. (Flight Jacket, v. 25, no. 40, 18 Oct 1968, p. 1.)
- 14 Oct USMC---The Marine Corps stated that during 1968 about 6,000 officers and men would return for second tours of duty in Vietnam. This was necessary to meet the need for experienced officers and noncommissioned officers. (N.Y. Times, 15 Oct 1968, p. 1.)
- 19 Oct VIETNAM---Operation MAUI PEAK, a combined operation which began on 6 October, ended in the area 11 miles northwest of An Hoa. The operation involved elements of the 1st Marine Division and claimed 203 enemy killed. Marines lost 28 killed and 148 wounded. (DOD News Release No. 294-68, 20 Oct 1968; Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 22 Oct CONUS---Private First Class Gary W. Martini was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam during Operation UNION. (Scout, v. 26, no. 44, 1 Nov 1968, p. 1.)
- 23 Oct VIETNAM---Operation MAMELUKE THRUST, conducted by elements of the 1st Marine Division and the 26th Marines, ended 25 miles southwest of Da Nang. The operation began on 19 May and accounted for 2,730 enemy killed. Friendly casualties were 296 killed. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 317.)
- 26 Oct USMC---Major David L. Althoff was named Marine Aviator of the Year and received the Alfred A. Cunningham Trophy. While serving in Vietnam, Major Althoff won 3 Silver Stars, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 50 Air Medals. He completed 1,000 combat and combat-support missions in Vietnam, and made numerous rescues of reconnaissance Marines. (1968 Chronology, p. 13.)
- 29 Oct CONUS---Captain James A. Graham was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius for action in Vietnam during Operation UNION II. (Scout, v. 26, no. 44, 1 Nov 1968, p. 1.)
- 29 Oct CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 1/6 returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after being deployed in the Caribbean. It was relieved by BLT 2/6. (Globe, v. 24, no. 43, 1 Nov 1968, p. 12.)
- 31 Oct CONUS---President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that 8 AM EST, 1 November 1968, all air, naval, and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam would cease. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 317.)
- 5 Nov CONUS---Richard M. Nixon was elected the 37th President of the United States. (FOF, 1968, p. 452.)

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- 9 Nov CONUS---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. pinned Naval Astronaut wings on Major Walter Cunningham, USMCR, an Apollo VII Astronaut. (1968 Chronology, p. 14.)
- 13 Nov USMC---Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad was named as the next Director of Women Marines. She was to take office 1 February 1969. (1968 Chronology, p. 14.)
- 16 Nov VIETNAM---Operation GARRARD BAY, a battalion-size search and clear operation conducted by elements of the 26th Marines, ended southeast of Da Nang. On 25 October, BLT 2/26 landed south of Marble Mountain in a one day operation, EAGLE HUNTER. Later that day it joined the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines and launched GARRARD BAY. The operation resulted in 19 enemy soldiers killed and 1,761 suspects detained. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 317; Da Nang Press Trends, 17 Nov 1968, p. 3.)
- 25 Nov VIETNAM---Marines entered the DMZ after spotting North Vietnamese troop concentrations inside the zone. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the raid; no Marines were lost. This was the first time Americans went into the DMZ after President Johnson's 31 October order that ended air attacks on North Vietnam. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 27 Nov 1968, p. 1.)
- 28 Nov VIETNAM---Operation DAWSON RIVER was launched in Quang Tri Province by elements of the 9th Marines. It was a multi-battalion search and clear operation. (Da Nang Press Trends, 15 Dec 1968, p. 3.)
- 7 Dec VIETNAM---Operation TAYLOR COMMON, a multi-battalion search and clear operation, began 10 miles west of An Hoa. The operation involved six Marine infantry battalions under the control of the 1st Marine Division. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 319; Da Nang Press Trends, 17 Dec 1968, p. 4.)
- 8 Dec VIETNAM---A squad of Marine sharpshooters ended a three-day tiger hunt after one Marine was killed by a tiger while on patrol in November. No tigers were sighted on the hunt near the Laotian border. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 9 Dec 1968, p. 10.)
- 9 Dec VIETNAM---Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE, a search and clear operation under the control of the 3d Marine Division, terminated southeast of Gio Linh. The operation began on 5 November 1967 and was combined with Operation SALINE which began on 26 January 1968. The operation accounted for 3,495 enemy killed, 106 prisoners of war, and 631 individual and 200 crew-served weapons captured. Friendly casualties were 395 killed and 2,134 wounded. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 49, 20 Dec 1968, p. 2.)
- 9 Dec VIETNAM---Operation MEADE RIVER was terminated 15 miles south of Da Nang. The operation began on 20 November under the control of the 1st Marine Division and accounted for 841 enemy killed and 71 members of the Viet Cong infrastructure captured. The Marines lost 95 killed and 306 wounded. (Naval Review, 1970, p. 318.)
- 23 Dec KOREA---After 11 months of captivity, the crew of the USS Pueblo was released by North Korea. The two Marines among those released were Staff Sergeant Robert J. Hammond and Sergeant Robert J. Chicca. (1968 Chronology, p. 15.)
- 28 Dec VIETNAM---Camp Carroll, a major Marine combat base in north Quang Tri Province, was deactivated after being in existence for more than two years. (1968 Chronology, p. 15.)

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- 4 Jan USMC---Marine Corps Combat Readiness Training Group (MCCRTG) 10 with its subordinate squadrons, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 10 and Marine Fighter/Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 102 were activated at MCAS, Yuma. Marine Fighter/Attack Training Squadron 101 was also activated at El Toro, California. The purpose of these activations was to bring the Corps up to its authorized permanent force structure in MCCRTGs. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 1, Jan 1969, p. 5.)
- 5 Jan VIETNAM---Operation VALIANT HUNT ended in Quang Nam province after 21 days. During the multi-company operation, Marines killed 33 of the enemy. Only 2 Marines were killed and 14 wounded. (DOD News Release, 7 Jan 1969; Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 6 Jan CONUS---President-elect Richard M. Nixon announced the selection of Rhode Island Governor John H. Chafee as the new Secretary of the Navy. Governor Chafee is a former Marine who served in World War II and Korea. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 7 Jan 1969, p. 1.)
- 6 Jan VIETNAM---Marines uncovered 12 tons of rice, 5,500 rounds of heavy machine gun ammunition, and 250 pounds of TNT in Quang Tri province, several miles southeast of the demilitarized zone. (Early Bird, N.Y. Times, 8 Jan 1969, p. 8.)
- 16 Jan CONUS---President Johnson presented Major Stephen W. Pless with the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam on 19 August 1967. ("Pless")
- 16 Jan USMC---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. was awarded a second Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States of America while serving as Commandant of the Marine Corps." (Scout, v. 27, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 1.)
- 20 Jan CONUS---Over 1,200 Marines took part in the Presidential Inaugural ceremonies of Richard M. Nixon. (1969 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 22 Jan-18 Mar VIETNAM---Operation DEWEY CANYON began in the A Shau Valley when the 9th Marines and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. The 9th Marines killed more than 1,200 North Vietnamese troops and unearthed more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 5, May 1969, p. 4.)
- 27 Jan VIETNAM---Operation DAWSON RIVER, conducted by the 9th Marines with artillery support by the 12th Marines, ended after two months. In November 1968, these units moved into Quang Tri province to replace the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. (1969 Chronology, p. 1.)
- 31 Jan USMC---Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad became the 6th Director of Women Marines succeeding Colonel Barbara J. Bishop. Colonel Bishop became the Congressional Liaison Officer to the Senate. (Scout, v. 27, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 3.)
- Feb USMC---The Defense Department announced a March draft call for 33,100 men of which 1,500 would go to the Marine Corps. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 3, Mar 1969, p. 4.)
- Feb USMC---The House Armed Services Committee approved a bill authorizing two active four-star generals for the Marine Corps if its strength was over 200,000. The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps would be a full general. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 3, Mar 1969, p. 1.)
- Feb CARIBBEAN---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. made his first trip to the Caribbean since becoming Commandant. During his three day visit, General Chapman visited Marine Barracks at Roosevelt Roads, Guantanamo, San Juan, and Bermuda. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 3, Mar 1969, p. 1.)
- 1 Feb CONUS---The 5th LAAM Battalion was deactivated at the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station. Its personnel and equipment became a detachment of the 2d LAAM Battalion headquartered at Twentynine Palms, California. The new detachment of the 2d LAAM continued to operate from Yuma. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 6, 7 Feb 1969, p. 3.)
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---The U. S. military strength in Vietnam numbered 539,500 including 81,000 Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 21 Feb 1969, p. 6.)
- 14 Feb CONUS---Sergeant William C. Horton, the Marines' oldest holder of the Medal of Honor, died in Seattle, Washington. During the China Relief Expedition in 1900, Sergeant Horton received the Medal of Honor for his action in fighting the Chinese Boxers. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 3, Mar 1969, p. 2.)
- 25 Feb USMC---Since the summer of 1965, over 30,000 Marines have voluntarily extended their tours of duty in Vietnam for at least six more months, or about one battalion a month. During December 1968, 3,200 Marines of the 8,000 Marines scheduled to return home extended their tours. (Statements on Vietnam, p. 33.)

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- 25 Feb USMC---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. stated that the Marine Corps was able to apply amphibious tactics in Vietnam. "As Marines move out of the landing zone in combat operations, resupply is begun by helicopters carrying supplies from support areas in the rear to the 'beachhead' units. Because the ground commander is not tied to an overland supply route, he is free to maneuver against enemy forces without keying his tactics to protecting that route," said General Chapman. (Statements on Vietnam, p. 43.)
- 27 Feb VIETNAM---During Operation DEWEY CANYON, men from the 9th Marines uncovered the largest single haul of arms and munitions to date in the war in the A Shau Valley. The munitions dump was so vast that additional Marines were called in to help find and destroy the stockpile. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 11, 14 Mar 1969, p. 1.)
- 28 Feb VIETNAM---Operations SCOTLAND II and KENTUCKY were ended by units of the 3d Marine Division. During Operation SCOTLAND II more than 3,300 enemy troops were killed while friendly casualties were 463 killed. Operation KENTUCKY resulted in 3,921 enemy killed with U. S. casualties at 520 killed. (DOD News Release, 2 Mar 1969, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- Mar CONUS---Brigadier General James Donald Hittle (Retired) succeeded Randolph S. Driver as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. General Hittle was released from active duty in November 1960 after completing more than 23 years in the Marine Corps. (Navy Times, v. 18, no. 21, 5 Mar 1969, p. 4.)
- Mar USMC---Plans for a Law Enforcement Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps were adopted. This branch would manage and coordinate the training of personnel to serve in law enforcement billets and was expected to go into operation during Fiscal Year 1970. (USNIP, July 1969, v. 95, no. 1, p. 155.)
- 3 Mar USMC---The Marine Corps received its first CH53D assault helicopter. This is an improved model of CH53A which was introduced into Vietnam in late 1966. It can transport 4 tons of cargo or 38 combat troops over 100 miles and return without refueling. (1969 Chronology, p. 2.)
- 7 Mar VIETNAM---The latest estimate of enemy strength places 40,000 NVA and 70-80,000 hardcore VC in I Corps, most of them in the northern provinces. (Sea Tiger, v. IV, no. 11, 15 Mar 1969, p. 12.)
- 9 Mar VIETNAM---Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird praised the record of extensions in the Marine Corps during a fact-finding mission in Vietnam. In 1968, 13,500 Marines voluntarily extended their tours in Vietnam for six months or more. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 12, 21 Mar 1969, p. 1.)
- 9 Mar VIETNAM---Operation TAYLOR COMMON ended 10 miles southwest of An Hoa. This operation, which began on 7 December 1968, accounted for 1,398 of the enemy killed and 610 captured. Marine casualties were 156 killed and 1,327 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 4 Mar 1969, p. 4.)
- 10 Mar VIETNAM---The fact that to protect American troops several Marine Corps companies crossed the Laotian border during Operation DEWEY CANYON was confirmed by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. The crossing was made near the tri-border where Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam meet. Marine units crossed the jungle border to give needed security on a flank that happened to extend into Laos. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 11 Mar 1969, p. 2.)
- 15 Mar USMC---The percentage of high school graduates among Marine Corps volunteers reached 55.4 percent, while among inductees it was 71.5 percent. College graduates among enlisted men numbered 1,071. (AF Journal, 5 Jul 1969, p. 7.)
- 18 Mar CONUS---Private First Class Melvin E. Newlin was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Nixon at the White House. Newlin received the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam on 4 July 1967. ("Newlin")
- 21 Mar USMC---The Robert M. Hanson Award was presented to VMFA-314 as the most outstanding Marine fighter squadron of 1968. The squadron was cited for its support of almost every major Marine operation during 1968 in Vietnam. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 5, May 1969, p. 2.)
- 26 Mar USMC---Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, Jr. became Commanding General, III MAF replacing Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, Jr. General Cushman was named as deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency by President Nixon. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 12, 21 Mar 1969, p. 1.)
- 26 Mar CONUS---Sergeant Rodney M. Davis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew for action in Vietnam during September 1967. ("Davis")

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- Apr VIETNAM---Four Marine AH-16 Huey Cobra gunships began operating in Vietnam with VMO-2. The AH-16, operated with only a pilot and copilot, was the first attack helicopter for the Marine Corps. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 6, Jun 1969, p. 4.)
- 5 Apr VIETNAM---Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 returned to Chu Lai from El Toro, California. This squadron first arrived in Vietnam in November 1966 as Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 232 and remained there until 1 September 1967. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 19, 9 May 1969, p. 1.)
- 20 Apr VIETNAM---Operation MUSKOGEE MEADOW, which began on 7 April, ended 5 miles north of An Hoa. The operation, conducted by elements of the 1st Marine Division, resulted in 162 of the enemy killed. Friendly casualties were 16 killed and 121 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 18 Apr 1969, p. 3.)
- 21 Apr CONUS---A Special Purpose Exercise (SPEX) began at Cherry Point, North Carolina. General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. observed part of the exercise which included an amphibious landing demonstration at Onslow Beach and a SATS demonstration at Bogue Field. (Windsock, v. 27, no. 17, 24 Apr 1969, p. 1.)
- 22 Apr CONUS---The U. S. Senate approved a four star rank for the Assistant Commandant as long as the active duty strength of the Corps exceeds 200,000 at the time of the appointment. (Leatherneck, v. LII, no. 8, Aug 1969, p. 60.)
- 25 Apr CARIBBEAN---United States and Brazilian Marines took part in an amphibious landing at Vieques, Puerto Rico during Operation VERITAS II, which was designed to test factors involved in large-scale amphibious operations by forces of culturally different nations. This was the largest combined U.S.-Brazilian maneuver since World War II. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 18, 2 May 1969, p. 5.)
- May USMC---In the 1968 general election, 74.5 percent of all eligible Marines voted. This was the highest percentage in all the military services. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 6, Jun 1969, p. 2.)
- 2 May VIETNAM---Operation MAINE CRAG, under control of the 3d Marines, ended six miles south of Khe Sanh. During the operation which began on 15 March, 157 of the enemy were killed and U. S. losses were 21 killed and 134 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 1 May 1969, p. 3.)
- 6 May VIETNAM---The III Marine Amphibious Force began its fifth year in Vietnam. It now was comprised of the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions, the Army's XXIV Corps, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Force Logistic Command, the Army's Americal Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 19, 9 May 1969, p. 1.)
- 8 May VIETNAM---A multi-battalion search and clear operation, PURPLE MARTIN, ended northwest of Khe Sanh. The operation, which began on 23 February, was under the control of the 3d Marine Division and accounted for 252 North Vietnamese soldiers. (Da Nang Press Trends, 9 May 1969, p. 1.)
- 9 May- VIETNAM---Small unit contact in the 1st Marine Division TAOR accounted for more than
19 May 600 enemy deaths. It was felt that these contacts may have stopped two large ground actions against U. S. and South Vietnamese military installations. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 22, 30 May 1970, p. 1.)
- 18 May USMC---Major General Edward A. Ostermann, USMC (Retired), died in Fairfax, Virginia. General Ostermann was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action during the capture of Fort Dipitio, Haiti in 1915. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 7, Jul 1969, p. 8.)
- 22 May CONUS---Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina was selected as the winner of the Secretary of Defense Conservation Award of 1968. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird approved this selection of Camp Lejeune because it demonstrated the greatest progress in conservation of natural resources among all of the Armed Forces installations. ("Camp Lejeune"--Subject File.)
- 23 May USMC---The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., announced that Sergeant Major Joseph W. Dailey would replace retiring Sergeant Major Herbert J. Sweet as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. (Globe, v. 25, no. 22, 29 May 1969, p. 1.)
- 23 May USMC---Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Lewis and Major Charles L. Phillips claimed the aircraft distance record in an OV-10A (Bronco). The two Marine pilots flew non-stop from Stephenville, Newfoundland to Mildenhall A.F.B., England in 11 hours and 49 minutes and covered a distance of 2,522 miles. The Bronco, which was being used by Marines in Vietnam, was a twin-engine, turbo-prop, visual reconnaissance plane. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 24, 13 Jun 1969, p. 1.)

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- 24 May USMC---The USS Inchon, an amphibious assault ship, was launched; its name commemorates the Marine landing in 1950 during the Korean War. (1969 Chronology, p. 5.)
- 24 May- VIETNAM---Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee visited III MAF Marines during a tour
27 May of American military installations in Vietnam. Chafee was a former Marine and a veteran of World War II and Korea. (1969 Chronology, p. 5.)
- 29 May VIETNAM---Operation OKLAHOMA HILLS, a multi-battalion search and clear operation, ended south of Da Nang. The operation which began on 31 March was under the control of the 7th Marines. Enemy losses were 596 killed and U. S. casualties were 53 killed and 487 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 30 May 1968, p. 1.)
- 31 May VIETNAM---U. S. Marines in Vietnam numbered 81,000 with the total U. S. strength at 538,500. (Da Nang Press Trends, 29 May 1969, p. 9.)
- Jun USMC---The reenlistment rate in the Marine Corps fell below rates experienced before Vietnam. Those drafted into the Marine Corps reenlist at a rate of only 1 percent for first term reenlistment, while the rate among volunteers is 12 percent. (AF Journal, 5 Jul 1969, p. 7.)
- 2 Jun CONUS---At the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., General Lewis W. Walt received his fourth star. For the first time in Marine Corps history there was more than one four-star billet authorized. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 24, 13 Jun 1969, p. 2.)
- 4 Jun USMC---Master Gunnery Sergeant Mabel A. Otten was named as the next Sergeant Major of the Women Marines replacing Sergeant Major Ouida W. Craddock who was to retire on 2 August after 22 years in the Marine Corps. (Windsock, v. 27, no. 24, 12 Jun 1969, p. 1.)
- 4 Jun USMC---Of the 862 graduates of the Naval Academy's Class of 1969, 92 accepted commissions in the United States Marine Corps. (Navy Times, v. 18, no. 36, 18 Jun 1969, p. 3.)
- 6 Jun USMC---Captain Fred R. Crowley became the first Marine to receive the Army's Distinguished Service Cross during the Vietnam War. Captain Crowley was with Advisory Team 1; U. S. Army Advisory Group when it was attacked by the Viet Cong. During the fight, Captain Crowley was severely wounded, but he continued to send important information over the radio and directed the care of the wounded. (Scout, v. 27, no. 25, 20 Jun 1969, p. 3.)
- 7 Jun VIETNAM---Operation APACHE SNOW, which began on 10 May, ended in the area 30 miles southwest of Hue. The operation involved the 9th Marines and ended with 735 of the enemy killed and over 300 individual and crew-served weapons captured. (Da Nang Press Trends, 29 May 1969, p. 7.)
- 7 Jun- VIETNAM---In three separate engagements, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines fought and defeated North Vietnamese units. With the aid of artillery and air strikes, Marines
12 Jun were responsible for 270 enemy casualties. (1969 Chronology, p. 7.)
- 8 Jun VIETNAM---Under President Nixon's plan for redeployment of American troops from Vietnam, 25,000 troops would be withdrawn by the end of August. The first Marine combat unit to be withdrawn was the 9th Regimental Landing Team. It was to be redeployed to Okinawa. (Early Bird, Wash. Post, 9 Jun 1969.)
- 12 Jun VIETNAM---Operation UTAH MESA under the control of Task Force Hotel, 3d Marine Division, began four miles northwest of Khe Sanh. During the first week over 160 enemy troops were killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 20 Jun 1969, p. 3.)
- 20 Jun CONUS---President Nixon posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to three Marines who were killed in separate actions in Vietnam. The nation's highest award was given to the families of Sergeant Paul H. Foster, Corporal Larry E. Smedley, and Corporal William T. Perkins, Jr. at a ceremony at the White House. ("Foster")
- 20 Jun CONUS---The largest amphibious training exercise since 1967, Exercise BELL CALL, began at Camp Pendleton, California. Marines from the 13th Expeditionary Brigade, 5th Marine Division tested a new amphibious tractor, the LVTPX-12, during the initial assault. (Scout, v. 27, no. 25, 20 Jun 1969, p. 1.)
- 23 Jun VIETNAM---Operation CAMERON FALLS, which began 29 May, ended in the area 20 miles southwest of Quang Tri. It was a multi-battalion search and clear operation under the control of the 9th Marines. During the operation 120 of the enemy were killed and 77 individual and 8 crew-served weapons were captured. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 27, 4 Jul 1969, p. 1.)
- 30 Jun USMC---About one-third of Marine Corps strength was in the Far East. Of the 93,000 Marines in the western Pacific, over 82,000 were in Vietnam. (AF Journal, v. 106, no. 42, 5 Jul 1969, p. 7.)

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- 9 Jul VIETNAM---Operation UTAH MESA was terminated by an element of the 9th Marines and the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. Located in the area northwest of Khe Sanh, U. S. forces killed 309 of the enemy, while U. S. casualties were 35 killed and 118 wounded. This was the last operation that the 9th Marines would participate in before leaving for Okinawa. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 29, 18 Jul 1969, p. 1.)
- 10 Jul VIETNAM---Operation MIGHTY PLAY began seven miles south of Da Nang. Marines from the 26th Regiment were landed and joined Republic of Korea Marines. During the first week 21 of the enemy were killed. (Da Nang Press Trends, 14 Jul 1969, p. 2.)⁰
- 11 Jul USMC---It was announced that a Navy destroyer escort to be launched in 1970 would be named in honor of Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul, USMC, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam. (1969 Chronology, p. 8.)
- 14 Jul VIETNAM---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines sailed from the Republic of Vietnam for Okinawa on board Seventh Fleet ships. This was the beginning of Phase I of President Nixon's 25,000 troop withdrawal plan. (Da Nang Press Trends, 31 Jul 1969, p. 3.)
- 16 Jul CONUS---During the launch of Apollo 11 at Cape Kennedy, Florida, a Force Troops team from the 2d Amphibian Tractor Battalion stood by as a secondary recovery force in the event of a miscalculation during the launch. (Globe, v. 25, no. 28, 11 Jul 1969, p. 1.)
- 16 Jul VIETNAM---Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE ended in the territory north of the Rockpile. The operation, which began on 1 May, was designed to uncover enemy installations, materiel, and troops. The 3d Marines accounted for 560 enemy dead and the capture of 141 individual and 34 crew-served weapons. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 30, 25 Jul 1969, p. 1.)
- 16 Jul VIETNAM---Operation HERKIMER MOUNTAIN, which began on 1 May and was centered in an area northwest of Cam Lo, ended. The operation involved elements of the 4th Marines and accounted for 560 of the enemy killed with U. S. casualties at 106 killed and 490 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 19 Jul 1969, p. 1.)
- 16 Jul-24 Jul CONUS---Vital communications support between the three Apollo 11 astronauts and the ground was provided by Marines from the Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia. Four Marines at Cape Kennedy were responsible for the ground link for the circuit with Apollo 11 during the launch and recovery of the capsule. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 31, 1 Aug 1969, p. 8.)
- 20 Jul CONUS---Racial riots at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina were responsible for the death of one Marine and serious injury of another. (Navy Times, 3 Dec 1969, p. 2.)
- 21 Jul VIETNAM---Phase IV of Operation PIPESTONE CANYON began south of Da Nang with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. Marines, along with Korean and South Vietnamese troops, were attempting to remove the enemy from strongholds in Quang Nam province. The operation began 14 June. (Leatherneck, v. LII, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 40.)
- 21 Jul VIETNAM---Operation RUSSEL BEACH, which involved the 26th Marines, ended with 158 enemy killed and 116 suspects detained. Friendly casualties were 56 killed and 268 wounded. (Da Nang Press Trends, 24 Jul 1969, p. 3.)
- 24 Jul PACIFIC---Marines from Helicopter Squadron HMX-1, which provides helicopter transportation for the President, accompanied President Nixon to the recovery area for the Apollo 11. Security for the President and the guarding of the Mobile Quarantine Facility which isolated the astronauts after recovery was provided by Marines on board the USS Hornet. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 31, 1 Aug 1969, p. 3.)
- 25 Jul VIETNAM---The remaining units of Regimental Landing Team 9 were honored at ceremonies held at Quang Tri Combat Base, bringing to an end more than four years of fighting in Vietnam. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 31, 1 Aug 1969, p. 1.)
- 1 Aug VIETNAM---Regimental Headquarters and the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines left Da Nang for Okinawa. Both units had been in Vietnam since 4 July 1965. (Da Nang Press Trends, 31 Jul 1969, p. 3.)
- 1 Aug CONUS---Sergeant Major Joseph W. Dailey succeeded Sergeant Major Herbert J. Sweet as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Sergeant Major Dailey holds the Navy Cross, Silver and Bronze Stars, and is a veteran of two Vietnam tours. (Naval Affairs, v. 48, no. 8, Aug 1969, p. 9.)
- 1 Aug USMC---Brigadier General Duane L. Faw and Colonel Ralph K. Culver joined seven Navy officers and three civilians as members of the new Navy Court of Military Review which met at the Washington Navy Yard. This was the first major step in streamlining the military court system under the Military Justice Act of 1968. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 34, 22 Aug 1969, p. 7.)

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- 13 Aug VIETNAM---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 left Vietnam for Okinawa under the announced 25,000-man troop reduction. The squadron boarded the USS Valley Forge from the Marble Mountain Air Facility. This was the first major increment of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to leave Vietnam. (Da Nang Press Trends, 13 Aug 1969, p. 3.)
- 13 Aug- VIETNAM---The 1st LAAM Battalion left Da Nang to be relocated at Marine Corps Base,
14 Aug Twentynine Palms, California. (Da Nang Press Trends, 13 Aug 1969, p. 4.)
- 14 Aug VIETNAM---U. S. Forces in Vietnam numbered 534,200 men of which 76,000 were Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 14 Aug 1969, p. 6.)
- 14 Aug VIETNAM---Regimental Landing Team 9 completed its redeployment from Vietnam when the 3d Battalion boarded the USS Paul Revere at Da Nang. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 34, 22 Aug 1969, p. 1.)
- 17 Aug OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived at Okinawa. The 9th Marines returned to their peacetime home at Camp Schwab. (Leatherneck, v. LII, no. 11, Nov 1969, p. 30.)
- 18 Aug VIETNAM---The last UH-34D Sea Horse Squadron, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362, left Vietnam to be reformed. The squadron was redesignated Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 362 after receiving the jet-powered CH-53 aircraft. This squadron was the first aircraft unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to serve in Vietnam, arriving in April 1962. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 36, 5 Sep 1969, p. 1.)
- 26 Aug- JAPAN---Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 334 was relocated from Chu Lai to the Marine
28 Aug Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan. (Da Nang Press Trends, 28 Aug 1969, p. 5.)
- 28 Aug USMC---U. S. military strength in Vietnam numbered 511,800 of which 72,600 were Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 3 Sep 1969, p. 4.)
- 1 Sep CONUS---Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, California was redesignated Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana. Its mission was to maintain and operate facilities and provide services to support operations of a Marine aircraft wing. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 5.)
- 1 Sep CONUS---A group of Alabama Marine reservists and prominent state officials established a "living memorial" to Marine General Holland M. ("Howlin' Mad") Smith. This consisted of \$25,000 to augment the scholarships started by General Smith at Alabama and Auburn universities. (Observation Post, V. XIII, no. 36, 5 Sep 1969, p. 3.)
- 15 Sep VIETNAM---Marines from Battalion Landing Team 1/26 landed on Barrier Island, 20 miles south of Da Nang, and searched the island for Viet Cong and North Vietnam forces. (1969 Chronology, p. 11.)
- 17 Sep VIETNAM---Another troop withdrawal was ordered from Vietnam. The Army was to be reduced by 14,263 spaces, the Navy by 5,239 spaces, the Marine Corps by 18,457 spaces, and the Air Force by 2,541 spaces. The total reduction was 40,500 men. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 39, 26 Sep 1969, p. 1.)
- 17 Sep CONUS---The Department of Defense issued an October draft call for 29,000 men. Of these, 27,600 would be assigned to the Army and 1,400 to the Marine Corps. The total number of inductees brought into the Marine Corps for the year through October amounted to 11,878. (Navy Times, v. 18, no. 49, 17 Sep 1969, p. 2.)
- 18 Sep VIETNAM---The U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam announced that the remainder of the 3d Marine Division and supporting elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing would be redeployed to implement President Nixon's decision to reduce the U. S. strength in Vietnam to 484,000 by 15 December 1969. Marine units that were to be withdrawn from Vietnam would be manned by Marines who have spent at least 12 months in Vietnam except for a few key personnel. (Da Nang Press Trends, 18 Sep 1969, p. 1.)
- 21 Sep CONUS---Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced that the 5th Marine Division would be deactivated at Camp Pendleton, California. The 26th Marines, still in Vietnam, would not be deactivated with the rest of the division. (1969 Chronology, p. 11.)
- 29 Sep USMC---The Marine Corps announced its first cutback of 20,300 in total strength. It was felt that a reduction in recruiting would reduce the size of the Corps without any rollback of temporary officer promotions or any reversion of temporary officers to enlisted status before 1 July 1970. (Navy Times, v. 18, no. 51, 1 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 30 Sep CONUS---Major Robert E. Finney was appointed new brig commander at Camp Pendleton and was given a free hand in improving conditions following three disturbances in the past few weeks over alleged mistreatment of prisoners. The base commander, Major General Donn J. Robertson, said three guards had been disciplined for using excessive force in quelling disruptive prisoners. (Early Bird, Phil. Inquirer, 1 Oct 1969, p. 5.)

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- 1 Oct CONUS---The West Coast Movement Coordination Center (WCMCC) was activated at Camp Pendleton, California. Its mission would be to provide facilities essential to arranging transportation and coordinating the movement of Marines from ConUS to the Pacific area. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 5.)
- 1 Oct USMC---More stringent reenlistment regulations for the Marine Corps went into effect. Disciplinary records would have a greater bearing on whether a Marine could reenlist or not. (Observation Post, v. XIII, no. 39, 26 Sep 1969, p. 3.)
- 7 Oct VIETNAM---The last units from the initial group of 5,900 Marines to depart Vietnam were airlifted to Okinawa to join the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. The other elements returned to the United States. (Da Nang Press Trends, 7 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 10 Oct USMC---General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced that unaccompanied tours for Marines with Fleet Marine Force units in the Western Pacific would be reduced from 13 months to 12 months, effective in November. (DOD New Release, no. 856-69, 10 Oct 1969, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 10 Oct USMC---By this time approximately 26,500 Marines had been redeployed from the Republic of Vietnam to bases in Okinawa, Japan, Hawaii, and the United States. (DOD News Release, no. 856-69, 10 Oct 1969, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 14 Oct USMC---The UH-34D "Sea Horse" helicopter went out of active service after 12 years in Marine Corps aviation. The helicopters were transferred to units of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Reserve, located throughout the country. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 42, 17 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 15 Oct CONUS---The majority of the 5th Marine Division's units were deactivated at ceremonies at Camp Pendleton, California. The units that were not deactivated were either reconstituted under new unit designations within Fleet Marine Force, Pacific or deactivated at a later date. The deadline for the division's complete deactivation was 30 November 1969. (Scout, v. 27, no. 41, 17 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 16 Oct USMC---Lieutenant General Henry W. Buse, Jr., Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, stated that immediately after the deactivation of the 5th Marine Division Headquarters in late November, the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade would be activated at Camp Pendleton, California. The ground combat units of the 3d Marines plus combat support elements drawn from Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific would form the brigade. (Scout, v. 27, no. 42, 24 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 16 Oct VIETNAM---There were 501,900 U. S. military in Vietnam, including 67,000 Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 23 Oct 1969, p. 5.)
- 17 Oct CONUS---Marines from the 2d Division and 2d Marine Aircraft Wing ended SPEX-69, an exercise which was a massive demonstration of land, sea, and air power, including an amphibious landing on Onslow Beach, North Carolina. (Globe, v. 25, no. 42, 17 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 19 Oct VIETNAM---Marines from Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 3d Marine Division, began embarking on board ships of the Seventh Fleet at Da Nang and Cua Viet to return to the division's home base on Okinawa. All elements of BLT 1/4 had left Vietnam by 25 October. The 4th Marines had been in Vietnam over four years. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 44, 31 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 20 Oct VIETNAM---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 left Vietnam for Okinawa on board the USS New Orleans. (Da Nang Press Trends, 20 Oct 1969, p. 2.)
- 22 Oct VIETNAM---Marine Observation Squadron 6 departed Vietnam for Okinawa. The squadron began operations in Vietnam on 1 September 1965. (Da Nang Press Trends, 20 Oct 1969, p. 2.)
- 25 Oct USMC---Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Niesen was named Marine Aviator of the Year. He was awarded the 1969 Alfred A. Cunningham Trophy for outstanding contributions to Marine Aviation while commanding Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 at Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam. (1969 Chronology, p. 11.)
- 28 Oct CONUS---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 561 was deactivated at El Toro, California and was replaced by HMM-265 which had just returned from Vietnam. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 44, 31 Oct 1969, p. 1.)
- 31 Oct CONUS---Vice President Spiro T. Agnew posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to two Marines who were killed in separate operations in Vietnam. The nation's highest award was given to Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez for action during Operation HUE CITY and Lance Corporal Jedh C. Barker for action near Con Thien in September 1967. ("Gonzalez")

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- 31 Oct CONUS---The Marine Barracks at Clarksville Base, Tennessee and Lake Mead Base, Las Vegas, Nevada were deactivated. (Gazette, v. 53, no. 10, Oct 1969, p. 5.)
- 1 Nov PACIFIC---The 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade was deactivated after more than three and a half years of active service in the Western Pacific. The 3d Marine Division assumed the brigade's responsibilities as an amphibious ready force in the Western Pacific. (Navy Times, 3 Dec 1969, p. 43.)
- 6 Nov VIETNAM---American forces in Vietnam numbered about 490,700 including 61,400 Marines. (Da Nang Press Trends, 13 Nov 1969, p. 4.)
- 7 Nov VIETNAM---Most of the remaining 3d Marine Division units left Vietnam for Okinawa. About 2,300 Marines were involved in this relocation. (DOD News Release No. PTA-225-69, Geog File--Vietnam.)
- 7 Nov VIETNAM---Operation PIPESTONE CANYON, a multi-battalion Allied operation, terminated in Quang Nam Province. It began on 26 May and was under the control of the 1st Marines. The enemy lost more than 480 dead. (1969 Chronology, p. 13.)
- 9 Nov OKINAWA---Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing completed its departure from Vietnam to Okinawa as part of Phase II Redeployment. (Da Nang Press Trends, 7 Nov 1969, p. 1.)
- 15 Nov- OKINAWA---The first Marine aircraft group of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to be re-
20 Nov deployed from Vietnam, MAG-36, moved from Phu Bai to Futema, Okinawa. After its move to Okinawa, MAG-36 assumed control of the helicopter and observation squadrons which had been redeployed from Vietnam. (1969 Chronology, p. 14.)
- 21 Nov VIETNAM---General Lewis W. Walt, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, said in Da Nang that if the American people had given their full support to the Administration that the Vietnam war would have ended a year ago. General Walt said the North Vietnamese prolonged the war because they felt that all American troops would soon be withdrawn. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 22 Nov 1969, p. 3.)
- 23 Nov JAPAN---Marine Air Support Squadron (MASS) 2 moved from Phu Bai to Japan. The squadron has played a vital role in close air support in Vietnam since April 1965. (Sea Tiger, v. V, no. 49, 5 Dec 1969, p. 1.)
- 24 Nov USMC---General Lewis W. Walt stated that he had visited parts of Micronesia to find possible new amphibious training sites, but that the Marine Corps had no present plans to move the 3d Marine Division from Okinawa. Some suggested sites were Saipan, Tinian, and the Palau group. (Early Bird, Balt. Sun, 25 Nov 1969, p. 11.)
- 24 Nov USMC---Marines on board the USS Hornet again provided support for the recovery of the Apollo 12 Moon Shot. (1969 Chronology, p. 13.)
- 24 Nov OKINAWA---The Marine Corps strength on Okinawa was 19,200. (1969 Chronology, p. 13.)
- 26 Nov CONUS---The 5th Marine Division was deactivated and the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade came into existence. This was the second time the division's colors were cased during its brief history. (Scout, v. 27, no. 47, 28 Nov 1969, p. 1.)
- 28 Nov CONUS---Marine Air Support Squadron 5, which had been activated 1 August 1966 as part of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, was deactivated, and Sub-Unit 1 of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 38 was formed to take its place. (Flight Jacket, v. 26, no. 49, 5 Dec 1969, p. 3.)
- 30 Nov USMC---Marine Corps strength dropped to 300,860. (Navy Times, v. 19, no. 14E, 14 Jan 1970, p. 13.)
- 2 Dec CONUS---Vice President Agnew posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to 2d Lieutenant Terrence C. Graves for action in Vietnam on 16 February 1968. ("Graves")
- 15 Dec VIETNAM---During the Phase II Redeployment, the major ground combat units departed from Vietnam were the 3d Marine Division and the Army's 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division. The strength of U. S. Forces in Vietnam was reduced from 524,500 to 484,000. (1969 Chronology, p. 15.)
- 17 Dec CONUS---The USS New Jersey, which provided the Marines with 152 days of heavy close-in support in Vietnam, was decommissioned at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. (1969 Chronology, p. 15.)
- 25 Dec VIETNAM---There were 55,300 Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. (1969 Chronology, p. 15.)

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Glossary of Abbreviations

ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
AirFMFPac	Air, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
BLT	Battalion Landing Team
ConUS	Continental United States
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
FMFPac	Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FMFLant	Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic
HMH	Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron
HML	Marine Light Helicopter Squadron
HMM	Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron
HMX	Marine Helicopter Squadron
LAAM	Light Anti-Aircraft Missile
MAB	Marine Amphibious Brigade
MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MAF	Marine Amphibious Force
MAG	Marine Aircraft Group
MASS	Marine Air Support Squadron
MAW	Marine Aircraft Wing
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MCCRTG	Marine Corps Combat Readiness Training Group
MEB	Marine Expeditionary Brigade
MEF	Marine Expeditionary Force
MEU	Marine Expeditionary Unit
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
RLT	Regimental Landing Team
SATS	Short Airfield for Tactical Support
SLF	Special Landing Force
SPEX	Special Purpose Exercise
TAOR	Tactical Area of Responsibility
VC	Viet Cong
VMA	Marine Attack Squadron
VMA(AW)	Marine Attack (All Weather) Squadron
VMF	Marine Fighter Squadron
VMFA	Marine Fighter Attack Squadron
VMFAT	Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron
VMGR	Marine Transport/Refueler Squadron
VMO	Marine Observation Squadron